THE INDEPENDENT



26-PAGE NEWS SECTION ...



A SUMMER IN PROVENCE:

PLUS COMMENT, ARTS, SHOPPING.



SPAIN'S NEW SPORT: BULLFIGHTING

COVER STORY

US reels as 80 die, 1,120 hurt in huge embassy bombings

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

BOMBS RIPPED through the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam yesterday killing as many as a hundred

and wounding more than 1,000. Bill Clinton said yesterday that America would use every means possible to find those responsible.

"We are determined to get answers, and justice," the President said.

The hombs revive bitter memories of the explosions which destroyed the US Marine barracks and embassy in Beirut in 1983; hut also of the Federal huilding in Oklahoma City, carried out by American right-wing extremists. Yet with no clear indications as to who might have carried out the attacks, the US government was

INSIDE

Low security made soft targets; US starts to line up the suspects Pages 12 and 13

left grieving once again. "To the families and loved ones of the American and African victims of these cowardly at tacks, you are in our thoughts and prayers," said the President.

The US Air Force sent military aircraft loaded with supcountries and FBI investigators from the Foreign Emergency Support Team were to fly to both cities with military and intelligence staff.

The embassy in Kenya was torn apart by a huge explosion at 10.35 local time. The bomb car parked in the embassy car embassy it also destroyed a five-storey block next door secretarial college, bringing it. almost to the ground.

Hundreds were injured by glass shards which flew hundreds of feet and a bus that was driving past was destroyed. Many fled the scene badly wounded and a cloud of smoke cloaked the area.

Twenty people were confirmed dead, with the death toll in the tangled wreckage. At pound into "a war zone", said



Americans were missing.

More than 1.000 people were injured and hospitals were overwhelmed as casualties arwas apparently in a Mitsubishi rived by ambulance, taxi, hus and private cars. The US ampark. Though aimed at the US bassador, Candace Bushnell, was slightly injured.

The embassy is in the cenwhich housed offices and a tre of Nairobi and the hlast sparked panic across the city. Uniformed US Marines and police tried to maintain order, while the fire brigade tried to douse fires in cars.

The blast in Tanzania followed a few minutes later, apparently also from a car parked near the embassy, which is in. a residential suburb of Dar es Salaam. It destroyed the enexpected to top 80. As many as trance to the embassy, set cars tivity. 60 were believed to be trapped on fire and turned the com-

bassy employees. Seven other ian guards and two Tanzanian employees at the embassy, and 60 injured. Two-thirds of the embassy was destroyed.

The question of responsibility for the blast remained a mystery. There was no immediate warning and no claim afterwards. There has been no history of attacks on US facilities or civilians in Kenya or Tanzania, or indeeed in Africa as a

> Though the US media quickly blamed the attack on Middle Eastern groups, previous incidents - the Oklahoma bomb. carried out by white Christian Americans, and a TWA airliner which apparently exploded after a mechincal fault - made any speculation a high-risk ac-

The US has received a series of warnings this year from Is-

George. "We wanted to have a

really spectacular summer sale,

so we decided to go for one mas-

lent to 5,000 Jumbo jets, will

soak up much of the available

demand for travel during the

rest of the year. The sell-off be-

The "massive hit", equiva-

sive hit over one weekend."

department issued a general warning after Osama Bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian national who has been an influential financier of radical Islamic groups, threatened US targets all over the world but that warning was specifically in reference to the Middle East

and South Asia. Earlier this week, Jihad, an Egyptian group, said that it would attack Americans after the US assisted in extraditions from Albania to Egypt.

In March, the US Embassy in Islamabad warned Americans that there had been threats to their security But none of this makes it cer-

tain that any group in particular targeted the US and most responsible experts counselled caution over any attribution of

Bloodied clothes littered streets, bodies hung out of windows

IN NAIROBI, the hlast at 10:35 BY CREGE MBITIRU a.m. (0735 GMT) toppled the four-storey Ufundi Co-operative huilding on top of the US embassy. Windows 10 blocks away were shattered. Several people on two passing huses were killed by shrapnel, witnesses said. Bloodied clothing and papers littered the streets as-

crowds crawled over a mountain of twisted and broken concrete and metal looking for victims, calling out and waving for

help to free trapped people. Bodies were draped out of the windows of a charred bus. Mangled cars were smouldering on the street amid the de-

gow, Manchester and Newcas-

tle. Although bookings must

day, the period for which the

extends to the end of Novem-

ber, with returns possible until

This year, BA has faced in-

tense competition from low-

cost airlines, and in June it

launched its own low-cost off-

in Nairobi

bris. Dazed and bloody survivors lay until rescuers led them away. Passers-by joined the rescuers, and others ferried the injured to hospitals in cars. injured when a wall collapsed More than 1,100 people were on her, and another had her being treated in three hospitals.

In Dar es Salaam, blackened debris was strewn around the US embassy and at the front of the building was a mangled, scorched car wreck.

"Everyone's shocked. Very scared," said a US official at the embassy. "Our families are waking up this very moment to hear about the bomb. You can imagine how worried they are." One witness, Jim Owen told

CNN: "Glass was flying ... I meters) from where I was sitting." He said one woman was nose ripped off.

Officials in the US, Kenya and Tanzania refused to speculate on who was responsible. "All we can say is if any of our people or embassies are heing targeted, we are not going to tolerate it," said Bill Richardson,

The US ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, was cut on the lip and helped from the ruins of the Co-operfound myself about 5 feet (1.5 ative Bank House, where she had just given a news conference, said US Embassy spokesman Bill Barr.

As night fell in Dar es Salaam, the US embassy huilding, two miles north of the city centre and near the Indian Ocean shore guarded by US Marines and Tanzanian riot

In Nairobi, rescuers toiled among the debris beneath huge studio lights illuminating the

BA tries to scupper rivals with 2m cheap flights

BRITISH AIRWAYS is launching BY SIMON CALDER an attack designed to inflict Travel Editor maximum harm on its lowfare rivals by staging this weekend an unprecedented "summer sale".

The airline says it is selling 2 million seats at cut prices because of sluggish bookings during the World Cup. But many of the deepest discounts are on routes flown by no frills com-

The former MI5 agent David Shayler yesterday met his lawyer for the first time since his arrest in Paris last Saturday PAGE 2

petitors. Flights to dozens of

European cities are being off-

loaded at less than £100 return,

undercutting fares on rivals

easy Jet and Ryanair Routes op-

erated by two smaller low-fare

carriers, AB Airlines and

Debonair, are also targets for

deep discounts by BA.

HOLE

This Life may have gone from our television screens but the central character of Anna, it turns out, is not dead PAGE 3

extra staff have been drafted in to call centres at Belfast, Glas-

until 9pm tonight.

"This sale has been sparked gins at 9am today and contin-

by the football factor," said BA's ues till midnight tomorrow.

director of marketing, Martin BA's flagship store in Regent

FOREIGN

30 December.

After Ms Lewinsky's eight was reduced to the one essential question: what is sex?

be made by midnight on Sun-Copenhagen and Lisbon. Rivalry is most intense on outbound flights can be taken

flights to Nice, where BA takes on easyJet, Debonair and AB Airlines, as well as a British Midland/Air France joint operation. BA's promotional fare from London is just £79 return (including £17 tax), compared with a full economy fare of £585.

shoot, Go, which it is now actually undercutting on routes to gled out for deals that appear Flights to European cities start to be below cost, with a flat fare at £69 return to Paris from reports near Oslo, Stockholm and Malmo. Berlin, to which AB Airlines recently began flying from Gatwick, is on offer at £79.

of 239 from London to any of the gional airports such as Abfour capital cities. The target erdeen, Birmingham and appears to be Ryanair, which Manchester, Glasgow-Madrid has flights from Stansted to air and Edinburgh-Rome are on Fares from regional airports the potential of the BA offer.

offer at £99 - for a return journey of more than 2,500 miles. ■ Weekend Review, page 19. for full details of how to maximise



POLITICS

Street, central London, is open

open tomorrow, and the airline

will also be taking reservations

through a special website and

hy telephone. Hundreds of

Other BA Travel Shops will

Frank Field is back in the role of the outsider shunned by hours of testimony, the affair ministers and despised by New Labour apparatchiks PAGE 8

FOREIGN

With parts of the Yangize notching up new flood records the fight is becoming a matter of life and death

England dismissed the South Africans for 252 - a first innings

SPORT

lead of just 22 - in the final Test at Headingley yesterday





Very dry, very hot and very PIMMS all day.





INDEX

HOME NEWS PAGES 2 - 11

Forgiveness over freed IRA man The release of a former IRA prisoner who murdered Lord Mountbatten and three others in a bomb attack was greeted yesterday with scathing criticism from some politicians, but a message of forgiveness from the father of one of his victims.

Edinburgh too cold say Fringe

The higgest arts festival in the world has thrown punters into confusion following a decision by performers on the Edinburgh fringe to start early because it might be too cold by the end of August.

Carey apologises to gays

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday apologised to lesbian and gay Christians for the pain they have experienced as a result of the Lambeth Conference

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 12 - 15

UN 'responsible' for Iraq famine

The disaster hitting the Iraqi people was caused directly by the action of the United Nations. In March this year a survey by UNICEF showed that 58 per cent of Iraqi children under five suffer from malnutrition.

The life of a Geisha apprentice

Koaki is a 20 year old maiko or apprentice geisha. This apprenticeship will eventually qualify her for a life spent entertaining male clients at banquets and private parties with dancing, singing and witty conversation. Page 15

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 16 - 18

Racal offers telecoms arm

Racal, the electronics group, is willing to consider offers for its telecoms arm after failing to find a chief executive

SPORTS NEWS PAGES 19 - 28

De Bruin to appeal against ban

Michelle de Bruin, Ireland's triple Olympic swimming champion, is to appeal against her four-year ban for allegedly tampering with a urine sample, accusing the sport's authorities of a "conspiracy" to find an athlete guilty

WEEKEND REVIEW

28-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Alfried Sherman

Thinking the unthinkable provides an impulse for action to hring reality into line with thought; otherwise, what is the point in fresh thinking, which only generates frus-

I vividly remember drinking with an American businessman in a Rangoon hotel and being told that only the army stood between Burma and anarchy.

Charles Arthur

If we are increasingly coming to respect Stone Age man, it is perhaps because we are recognising that in many ways, he knew the good life,

Letters	2	Shopping	14-16
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Arts	10-11	Travel	19-28
Outdoors	12-13	Today's TV	Pullout

Cryptic crossword, Weekend Review, page 28





MI5 rebel vows battle over secrets charge

THE REBEL former MI5 agent David Shayler yesterday met his lawyer for the first time since his arrest in Paris last Saturday, and announced that he was willing to stay in jail to prove his revelations about the intelligence service were in the public interest.

The statement was made hy his lawyer, John Wadham, who spent an hour and half with Mr Shayler at La Sante prison in southern Paris.

The announcement came at the same time as it was revealed that police had searched hotel room of former MI6 agent Richard Tomlinson in New Zealand.

Mr Tomlinson, 35, was

BY CATHY COMERFORD

aging disclosures" about his four-year career with the intelligence service, which took him to Bosnia and Moscow.

The civil rights group Liberty said he was prevented from boarding a plane from New Zealand to Australia and returned to his hotel room as the search was carried out. Britain wants to extradite Mr

Shavier for disclosing information on MI5 operations to the Mail on Sunday newspaper. The Government obtained an injunction last August to stop the paper from publishing further articles.

Mr Wadham, director of Libserved with an injunction ear- erty, said outside the prison: mitting giving secret informa- year-old man in connection sure to be applied on a more said Ian Duncan, chairman of lier this week to prevent "dam- "He'll definitely plead not guilty tion to a publisher.

s prepared to wait in prison." He said a hearing was unlikely before September or Oc-

tober and that Britain has 40

days to set out the details of its case that Mr Shayler breached the Officials Secrets Act. Mr Shayler, who left MI5 last year, had access "to high-

ly sensitive information which he has undertaken never to reveal", according to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. The Sunday Times reported

that Mr Shayler was planning ... A Scotland: Yard spokesto divulge further details of MI5 operations on the Internet and was working with Mr Tomlinson, a former MI6 agent who vice, searched a premises in served a year in prison after ad- Auckland occupied by a 35-

Mr Tomlinson, who has dual British and New Zealand nationality, was jailed for 12 months in December last year after admitting trying to sell his story to an Australian publisher. He was released on licence

in April. French authorities questioned him in Paris over the weekend, at the same time of Mr Shayler's arrest

But Mr Tomlinson was released and travelled to New

Zealand woman said: "New Zealand police, acting upon a request from the Metropolitan Police serOfficial Secrets Act. Two Metropolitan Police service officers were present during the search of the premises."

Mr Wadham who also represents Mr Tomlinson said his client had been trying to start a new life in New Zealand. Mr Tomlinson said: "Many of

these items had already been seized and then returned to me by the French police." He added that the presence

of British officers at the scene was a "waste of taxpayers" money".

A temporary or interlocutory injunction has been granted against him by the New Zealand courts pending their decision on allowing the meawith inquiries in relation to the permanent basis.

Britain. goes to Costa Channel:

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

THE RUSH-HOUR began two hours early yesterday as thousands of sun-seekers headed to the coast to make the most of Britain's hottest weekend of the year.

As weather forecasters said the high temperatures and sunshine would last at least until then end of tomorrow in most areas, motorists were warned. that the belated arrival of summer was already causing traf-

A spokesman for AA Roadwatch said vesterday: "Roads. started to get packed from about 2pm. It seemed like the entire country was leaving work early. The M25 was very slow two hours earlier than usual for a Friday." He added: "The M5 in Devon

has been very bad. All the traffic is causing a lot of extra hassle. All roads leading to the coast will continue to be very husv as people have been deprived of the sun for so long." Andy Yeatman, of the Met

Office, said: "Many parts of the country will be dry, hot and sunny. The highest temperatures will be in the South-east where there will be temperatures as high as 30 degrees

But he warned: "On Sunday it could cloud over and there is the chance of the odd shower in some places. The weather won't be so good in the Northwest where it will be rather cloudy with some patchy rain over the whole weekend."

Referring to the Met Office's new Comfort Index, launched this week to inform the public on the combined effect of high temperatures and humidity; Mr Yeatman said the weather in the south will be "slightly comfortable"

He added: "The outlook is for some reasonable August weather in southern parts. The warm, dry weather should continue for a while but there is a chance that showers in the North-west could become more widespread."

The warm weekend is certain to hring a welcome boost in profits for husinesses in coastal resorts. Traders in Brighton were preparing for an influx of visitors eager to make up for lost time after summer's

"We are expecting thousands of tourists this weekend - the sun can only be positive," recreation and tourism.

Art dealers jailed for theft of £200,000 Lowry paintings

TWO "DESPICABLE" art deal- By MELVYN HOWE ers who stole valuable L S Lowry oil paintings from their were each jailed for four years yesterday

Michael Openshaw, 51, and Robert Barrett, 54, who police believe have spent years preying on elderly people in southern England, ignored the protestations of Dr Percy Thompson-Hancock plucked the canvases from his lounge wall.

As partially-blind Dr retired cancer specialist, cootinued to plead with them, the two dealers dropped £10,400 in cash on the table and left with Children on a Promenade and Family of Three

HIGH TIDES

SUN & MOON

05.35 20.37 20.49 05.54

WEATHERLINE

08·12 13.0 20:33 13.5 07.12 8.5 19:42 8.5

01:28 3.4 13:45 3.2

tucked under their arms. helpless 94-year-old owner Although they put a further £6,000 in the post a few days later, it still came nowhere near the paintings' true value. London's Southwark Crown Court was told.

The distraught doctor and his family desperately tried to get the prized paintings back, unaware they had been auctioned off hy Bonhams for £78,000.

Eight months after they Thompson-Hancock, who is a were stolen, the works, paint-

ed by Lowry in the 1960s, appeared for sale at a Bond Street art gallery for £215,000. Fortunately, the former Harley Street doctor's grand-

daughter spotted them as she

being held at the gallery. Neither Openshaw, of Hill-

hrow, Hove, East Sussex, nor Barrett, from East Drive. Hove, ahowed any reaction as the jury convicted them of two counts of theft in November 1996 and rejected their claims that they had been victimised by the former doctor's "greedy" relatives after they had realised how much the

oils were worth. Passing sentence, Judge David Elfer QC told them: "What you men did was despicable ... it was in fact a determined crusade by you to get from the doctor the best

pieces that he had." He said they had pestered their elderly victim repeated-

walked round an exhibition ly to part with the paintings, until finally they decided to take no more notice of his

refusal to sell. "What you did ... indicates the heartlessness and the greed of you two men and you ought to be thoroughly ashamed of yourselves.

"I treat each of you as equal partners in this because you were equally determined to sell these two paintings in order to make money from

"They were, and you knew it, valuable. This sort of behaviour cannot be permitted to go on and 'knockers' like you must be warned, when convicted, that this is what will happen to them," the judge

No action in row over wrong shares

THE Banking Ombudsman BY EMMA SIMON yesterday told irate customers he could not intervene where customers of converting huilding societies have been allocated too many free shares. It came after reports sug-

gesting some of these banks, including the Halifax and Woolwich, were pursuing customers to pay back shares wrongly allocated to them. The Ombudsman office said: This is outside our remit ... We do not get involved with disputes between these banks and their shareholders."

The Ombudsman could only become involved where a bank misadvised customers, which led to them not receiving share allocations.

The Halifax and Woolwich confirmed they are reclaiming shares, but denied they were affected.

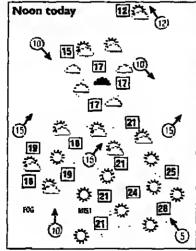
would dip into customers' accounts to ohtain the money owed to them. Problems are arising, as some customers have sold the shares, and the banks concerned are demanding the money back. A spokeswoman for the

Woolwich said: "We do notexpect a lump sum all in one go, and if customers are having problems paying this, then in most cases individual arrangements can be made."

The Halifax and Woolwich said they were reclaiming shares from a "small percentage" of customers, though they both declined to say how ifax said it was "unlikely" that thousands of their customers

BRITAIN TODAY

OUTLOOK



The far north of Scotland will have some rain early and late, but the middle part of the day should be dry with a few sunny intervals, Central Scotland will stay overcast with rain at times, especially on western upslopes. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will brighten up after any early drizzle dears away. Meanwhile, early mist over England and Wales will soon dear to leave a surrry and very hot day, although southern and western coasts will have cooling onshore winds.

NEXT FEW DAYS

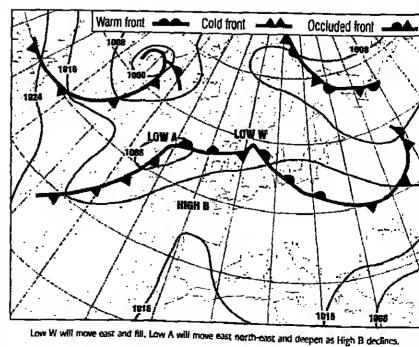
Tomorrow will be not and surny over England and Wales, but it will become fresher on Monday. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will have bright and warm weather both tomorrow and on Monday. Northern Scotland will be unsettled with rain followed by showers. some rain, but southern and eastern England will stay fine and warm.

LIGHTING UP TIMES BRITISH ISLES WEATHER 5.48 5.39 5.46 5.36 5.36 5.38 5.29

KEY: C.cloudy: O.clear; Ffair; Fg.fog; Hz.haze; M.mist; R.rain; S.sunny;

THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



ritain es to Osta Corn detectives flock to the great hannel

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dates the continue

Who(and how)dunnit of summer BY DUFF HART-DAVIS THE FINE weather may have sent thousands of holidaymakers rushing to the coast, but it has also touched off a serious outbreak of crop-circle fever in the cornfields of Wiltshire and Hampshire. All day, every day, people are trekking out along the tramlines made by tractor wheels to inspect formations in standing wheat; at night they are sitting out on headlands, looking for

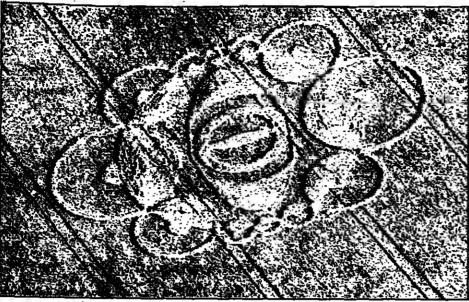
peculiar lights in the sky. In every hostelry, rumours of new formations proliferate, and whenever a car pulls in to the side of a road other motorists draw up behind it to see what is happening. One new formation in a wheatfield at Manor Farm,

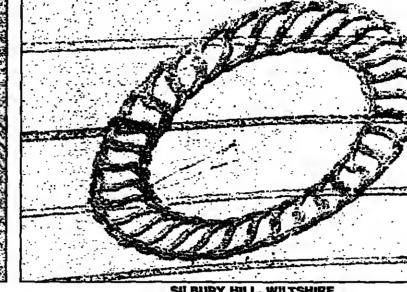
near Lockeridge in Wiltshire, drew a typical crowd. A complex of interlocking circles several hundred feet across, the shape appeared during Wednesday night. By Thursday hmch-time, there were a dozen vehicles parked at the bottom corner of the field, and a boy holding a makeshift notice in green ink was exacting £1 from every visitor.

When I arrived, a woman was sitting near the centre wielding two L-shaped copper rods. An American seemed impressed rather than annoyed by the fact that his camera had wice refused to work (malfunctioning of electrical and mechanical equipment is common inside new formations).

Andreas Mueller, a researcher from Germany, was taking measurements. On the question of whether the formation was natural or the work of fakers. Mr Mueller remained reserved, "In Germany we've had 22 formations so far this year," he said, "and I'm quite sure that three were manmade, maybe more. In this one, what's surprising is that the corn is laid in several different directions. It wasn't just that somebody walked it down,

Equally cautious was the indefatigable English researcher
Lucy Pringle, "Unless I'm first





SILBURY HILL, WILTSHIRE



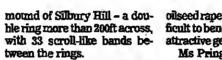


SILBURY, WILTSHIRE PRIVETT, HAMPSHIRE

been "a terrifically busy one". into a new formation, and see exactly how the crop has gone It began early, on the night of over, I find it very difficult to tell 19 April, when a double circle whether it's real or fake," she appeared in oilseed rape right said. But already this year she under the approach to Thruxhas photographed over 50 forton airfield, in Hampshire. The mations from the air and in-next manifestation, a couple of vestigated 15 on the ground, days later, also in oilseed rape,

AVEBURY TRUSLOE, WILTSHIRE

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN THIS SUMMER BY LUCY PRINGLE



She likens it to a Beltane wheel -an ancient symbol used at Celtic festivals in May - and points out that, whatever pro-

oilseed rape are exceedingly difficult to bend into accurate and attractive geometrical patterns.

Ms Pringle readily accepts that skilled fakers are at work, but after 10 years' research she remains convinced that many formations are the product of

discharge of electro-magnetic energy. "We know that they appear suddenly, in from four to seven seconds, and that they can have powerful effects on people, sometimes beneficial,

sometimes harmful." She is annoyed that in July

CLANFIELD, HAMPSHIRE

FAREHAM, HAMPSHIRE

whole phenomenon" by showing how easy it is to produce takes. and hiring practised hoaxers to construct a complex of circles on Milk Hill, near Alton Barnes. "It may look all right on the film," she said. "But as soon as you went into it on the ground, you

CROP CIRCLES: THE THEORIES

IN ORDER of increasing likelihood, there are three principal theories to explain crop circles. The first is extraterrestrial visitors: the second natural phenomena such as unusual forms of lightning; and the third is humans armed with some string and a plank or

garden roller. Although the UFO idea has excited onlookers since the first formations came to wide public notice in Westbury, Wiltshire, in August 1980, it has never convinced sceptics generally because any crop circle can be reproduced by people,

given time and patience. The alternative nonhuman possibility is strange weather. William Levengood, a retired hiologist from the University of Michigan, reckons that unstable vortices of ions in the ionosphere descend to the ground and cause a discharge which heats the corn - swelling the nodes on the stems (as is sometimes observed) - as it whirls it round and lays it flat. Nobody has ever observed it, hut nature is capable of strange things.

Another weather theory suggests micro-tornadoes, as a cause but this does not explain the huge number of circles, oor the fact that their number has grown and fallen in line with media coverage. The human theory does.

In 1992, a number of teams admitted creating most of the famous hoax formations. The process is simple: all you need is some string, a slick, and something to flatten corn. Instructions are available on the Internet.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Revealed: what Anna did next in the life beyond

BY JANE ROBINS Media Correspondent

THE CULT drama series, This Life, may have gone for good from our television screens, but the central character of Anna, it turns out, is not dead. Amy Jenkins, the creator of

This Life, is now working on a feature film. Elephant Juice, which has just signed up Daniela Nardini, the actress who played Anna, in a lead

While the movie has a whole new set of characters - Nardini will play "a damaged but strong young woman", says Jenkins, acknowledging that this could also be a thumbnail description of Anna.

The reunion of Daniela Nardini and Amy Jenkins will be welcomed by the five million viewers who were hooked on This Life, and were left unrequited by its final moments.

When the last credits rolled, the scene on screen was chaotic. Anna, strong but flawed, chain-smoked her way through the wedding of Miles to candysweet Francesca, when viewers knew that in a more conventional drama she would have snatched him away for berself and ended her story with wild and passionate sex.

Milly, of tidy mind and tidy habits, was about to confront the messy truth that her mild and benign boyfriend Egg had discovered her affair with ber lawyer boss O'Donnell. Only the sexy blonde Rachel,

despised by all for her meretricious ways, received a conventional comeuppance when Milly surprised everyone by marching across the floor and punching Rachel square in the But lingering in the ether

were unanswered questions. What became of Anna, Milly, Miles and the rest?

Ms Jenkins, writer of the first

six episodes of the series, delivers a deadpan, almost dismissive, response to the question, much as any of the This Life characters might



again in a feature film, 'Elephant Juice'

along, like we all do," she says. "But I have my doubts that vive." Any reasonably astute viewer would doubtless agree.

Ms Jenkins might be expected to have strong feelings about Milly, the miss-perfect character with the world's neatest bob and hest-organised wardrobe, Milly's creator has said she believes that the achievers in life, the people who are doing things, are those who get up in the morning with a clear head; who answer their letters and get things done. This, of course, is Milly through

and through. But Amy Jenkins is, it ems, similar to most This Life addicts in finding herself endlessly entangled with the character of Anna. "I was told from the beginning that Anna was

give. "I think they muddle had been written before," she says. "I'm most proud of her. She's the character I most en-Miles's marriage would sur- joyed writing and I'll write her

Anna, as played by Daniela Nardini, was the strongest female role to be seen on British television since Helen Mirren as Jane Tennison, the detective lead in the Prime Suspect series. Like Mirren, Nardini was able to reduce other characters to rubble or drive them to despair with a withering look.

There is a dead certainty to Anna in the hands of Nardini. Her words, like her looks, are made of steel, and she is the mistress of the quick, sharptongued riposte. But she is compelling because she is so often wrong, because her withering looks misfire as often as they succeed and because her confidence is informed by original, and that no one like her whisky, nicotine and cocaine.

It is not surprising that Jenkins is proud of Anna and does not want to let her go. "She says all the things that I'd like to say in another life - she makes the retorts you think of making about three hours after the event. I would really like to live like her sometimes, for short moments."

What, then, became of Anna? Did she ever resolve her internal conflicts, or find a suitable romantic partner? "No," says Jenkins. "I doubt that Anna will ever find anybody. I think she will end up in a clinic being treated for alcoholism." Nevertheless, she is to re-

emerge, albeit in a slightly different form. The film Elephant Juice is a collaboration with Sam Miller, the first director on This Life. The two worked together for 18 months and wrote a script on spec, which has now been taken up by the film company

"Its an ensemble piece about a group of friends, set in Lon-don," says Jenkins. "They are facing the realities of life." The characters will he in

shooting starts in September.

their early thirties, older than those in This Life. But Daniela Nardini's new role will, like Anna, be central. Jenkins acknowledges that her writing is likely always to be

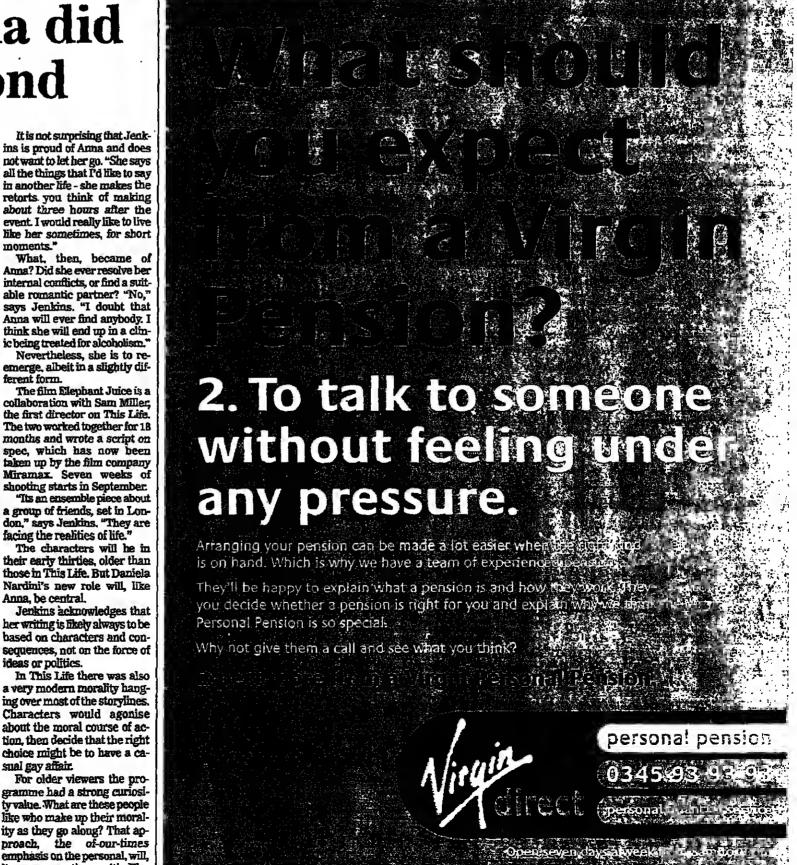
based on characters and con-

ideas or politics. In This Life there was also a very modern morality hanging over most of the storylines. Characters would agonise about the moral course of action, then decide that the right choice might be to have a ca-

For older viewers the programme had a strong curiosilike who make up their morality as they go along? That approach, the of-our-times emphasis on the personal, will,

sual gay affair.

It may also address the question of what Anna did next.



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NORTHERN IRELAND'S HARD MEN WHO COULD WALK FREE



Mastermind of 1984 bomb attack on Tory conference in Brighton which killed five people. Trial judge called him "a man of exceptional cruelty and inhumanity" and recommended minimum sentence of 35 years. Scheduled by Home Office to serve "whole life tariff". Now 47, he married in jail to American novalist Barbara Byer.



Sean Kelly

Serving 25 years for 1993 bomb attack on Shankill Road fish ahop which killed nine Protestants. Intended victim was Johnny Adair (right) who had earlier held a meeting in an upstairs room. Trial judge condemned attack as one of worst atrocities in history of the province. Now aged 23, he was not dua to have sentence reviewed until 2003.



Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair

Leader of the loyalist UFF/UDA in the Maze prison, he was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment in 1995 for directing terrorism. Intelligence sources believe he was responsible for killing up to 12 Catholics in attacks on bars and houses, and was also involved in the planning of others. Now aged 33, he was not due for release until 2003.



UDA member who launched grenade and gun attack on 1988 funerals of three IRA members shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar. Police arrested him as he fled from Milltown Cemetery in Belfast, otherwise he would have been almost certainly killed by mourners. Life sentence with recommended minimum : of 30 years. Now aged 42.



One of the Shankill Butchers, the gang whose story was made into the film Resurrection Man. They killed 19 Catholics by slitting their throats. Moore, 49, supplied the knives and cleavers and drove the taxi in which the gang toured Belfast. He admitted 11 murders in court and the judge said he should nevar be released.



Balcombe Street gang

Martin O'Connell (above), Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty carned out two-year IRA bombing and murder campaign in 1970s, including Guildford and Wootwich pub bombings which killed seven people. Arrested and jailed for life after six-day London siega in 1976, Described by Sinn Feln leader Gerry Adams as 'our Nelson Mandelas'.

Fury and forgiveness at IRA release

THE RELEASE of an IRA man BY KIM SENGUPTA who murdered Lord Mountbatten and three others in a father of one of the victims.

Unionist politicians describing the freeing of Thomas McMahon under the Good Friday agreement as appeasing Brahourne, mother of Lord

son was killed in the attack in bomb attack was greeted yes- 1979, said be was willing to terday with scathing criticism accept it in the interests of by some politicians, but with a strengthening the peace message of forgiveness by the process. Paul Maxwell, 15. died alongside Lord Mountbatten, his 14-year-old grandthe 83-year-old Dowager Lady

hoat, Shadow V, off Sligo. On the same day 18 paratroopers were killed in an ambush at Warrenpoint, County Down,

Mr Maxwell, from Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, said: "Thomas McMahon has served his time and if he is no longer a danger to society he son. Nicholas Knatchbull, and should be released. Keeping him in prison will not bring my son back, unfortunately. Peace Mountbatten's son-in-law, Is the imperative now, and we But John Maxwell, whose when the IRA blew up their must look forward so that per- 19 years. In 1992 he signed a

haps Paul's death and those of thousands of others from both sides of the political divide here will not have been entirely in vain."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said the Queen and the Prince of Wales, who was particularly close to Lord Mountbatten, had been told of the decision. McMahon. 50. was freed from Mountjoy Prison, in Dublin, after serving

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

links and had since been let out months. on a temporary basis to do a carpentry course as part of his rehabilitation scheme.

It was also disclosed yesterday that two Scots Guards jailed for the murder of a Catholic man in Belfast in 1992 may he freed soon. And it was announced that 400 terrorist inmates, including murderers, have received the paperwork she would reach a decision at which may see them out in

declaration severing his IRA the streets within a matter of

The Scota Guards, Jim Fisher, 29, of Ayr, and Mark Wright, 24, from Arbroath, were jailed for life for shooting dead 18-year-old Peter McBride in the New Lodge area of Belfast. Wright's MP, Andrew Welsh, said: "Mo Mowlam [Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) told me the end of the month, although

But she has the chance to free the guardsmen, since ex-terrorist prisoners are being released that makes the position of the soldiers even more

Mr McBride's parents, Peter and Jean, have been campaigning to keep Fisher and Wright in jail. Mrs McBride said: "Keeping them in jail doesn't do me any good, hut at least I know someone is being punished for murdering my son."

A woman whose husband was killed by Ulster Volunteer Force terrorists said she was thinking of leaving Northern Ireland to show her disgust at the early release of prisoners. Sandra Peacock, whose husband, Jim, was shot in 1993,

obviously she couldn't tell me what that decision would be. vou'd never hear the end of it in Northern Ireland we have mass-murderers as well, but they are only doing a few years and then going home to their wives and girlfriends. Life, for them, should mean life."

Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist Party MP for Belfast East, accused the British and Irish governments of releasing republican prisoners with "indecent haste". He said: "It is simply a case of clearing their jails of republican prisoners as quickly as they can. These are prisoners who have carried out the foulest deeds ... this is nothing to do with justice, this is

entirely a political decision." Andrew Mackay, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, said it was "regrettable" that Dublin was presaid: "Myra Hindley's still in maturely releasing prisoners jail after 30 years ... If she'd when terrorist groups were tried to get out of jail there not co-operating with decomwould be a public outcry and missioning weapons.

City braces itself for marchers

EVEN THE name seems to and denial of their rights. echo the sectarian divide: Londonderry for Protestants. Derry to Catholics. Today, the ble with a series of pageants city will be the setting for one and shows in Londonderry for of the most controversial of both communities. Alistair loyalist marches. What happens today will be a crucial indication of whether Ulster can break out of its cycle of bit-

terness and destruction. The Apprentice Boys' parade at Londonderry has. over the years, become synonymous with confrontation and strife. Other Protestant any other reason, we would celebrations have also sparked trouble in a city with a three-quarters Catholic population.

Last December disturbances following the "Lundy" celebrations cost the city more than £4 million; the previous year a man was killed in a violent reaction to the Orange Order parade at Drumcree. This year, however, has

seen an historic compromise hetween the Apprentice Boys and the residents of the nationalist Bogside area

Of an anticipated 15,000 marchers, just 13 will be allowed to lay a wreath at the cenotaph in the city centre, and one band will accompany the others as they walk along the city walls to commemorate the lifting of the siege of Derry in 1689.

Politicians, church leaders and the Royal Ulster Constabulary are keeping fingers crossed that the potentially volatile event will pass off peacefully. Its timing could not have been much worse. Feelings are still running high after the mayhem sparked by the Orange stand-off at Drumcree which led to the death of three young Catholic boys.

The march also comes just 24 hours after Tommy McMabon, the IRA bomber who murdered Lord Mountbatten. was freed in the Republic, and more than 400 terrorist prisoners in the North, including convicted murderers, received paperwork which could allow them to go free in a matter of months, if not weeks. In Londonderry, two

Catholic brothers were sbot last week in what the police say is a resurgence of sectarian violence, and there is growing the parade compromise as yet another example of surrender

Strenuous efforts have been made to keep the lid on trou Simpson, and Donncha Mac-Niallais, the leaders of the Bogside Residents Group.

both asked vesterday for troublemakers to stay away. Mr Simpson said: "We are looking forward to a peaceful and enjoyable day. For anyone who wishes to be in the city for ask them to stay at home. Confrontation is not welcome."

Mr MacNiallais added: The eyes of the world will be on Derry this weekend, and the nationalist community must continue to demonstrate the firm discipline and resolve which it has shown since the start of the present Drumcree

Out in the streets, however, the mood was one of caution and suspicion rather than euphoria. Londonderry has seen some of the worst excesses of the troubles - the brutal suppression of the civil rights marches, Bloody Sunday and a ferocious IRA bombing

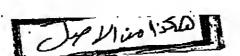
campaign.
At the fashionable Strand Bac Catholic Paul Corrigan, 29. said: "We are fairly cynical around bere. It's very pleasing. of course, to see the Apprentice Boys talking to the Bogside Residenta. But how much control will they have over the hangers-on? There will be all these feeder marches coming into Derry and some of them will be looking for a fight."

Across the River Foyle on the loyalist areas of the East Bank, the march is not viewed as an historical curiosity but a matter of tradition and heritage. At 61, Alex Smith has seen many Apprentice Boys parades and believes the opposition to them has been

He said: "In the past we used to have Roman Catholics and Protestants watching the celebrations together, and then drinking and singing

Sinn Fein and their agitators. We, the Protestant people, are once again being stopped from tension as Protestants decry doing what is our right. It is





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fermented by Nationalists. together afterwards.

"The trouble is created by

RIM SENGUPTA

MPs told: Don't assist forced marriages

MEMBERS OF Parliament have been asked to stop interfering in immigration applications following reports in The Independent showing they were unwittingly contributing to an increase in forced marriages. A senior parliamentary com-

DEPENDING

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Brite fractie in grettiff I Wood which have been been stated birdin gatalia suggest that the property of

mittee has warned that members of all parties were inadvertently causing some young British Asians to be married against their will while immigration officials were trying to help them. According to ried British Asians and are

BY STEVE BOGGAN

a report by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, problems arise when MPs agree to constituents' requests for them to write to British Entry Clearance Officers (ECOs) in Islamabad, Pakistan, asking for visa applications for

new spouses to be speeded up. The applications relate to Pakistani-born husbands or brides who have recently mar-

majority of these cases are genuine but a tiny proportion relate to forced marriages which the British Asian spouses oppose. Because of family pressure and coercion, however, many feel obliged to marry

against their will. In some cases, officials in Islamabad are privately asked for help by the victim. But their efforts to refuse a visa for the unwanted spouse are stymied when well-meaning MPs in-

awaiting clearance. The vast terfere on behalf of the unwill- Labour abolished the "prima- were running away from home whose part she was supposed ing spouse's family.

> Member makes representathe hehest of the sponsor's parents following an arranged marriage, and the ECO bas no other grounds for refusing a visa, the likely outcome is that one will be issued, thus forcing a couple together against their

The committee said the situation bas worsened since third generation Asian women

The committee says: "If a spouse's application could be rejected if it appeared that the tions in such a case, perhaps at sole reason for the marriage was to gain access to the UK. What MPs must consider, however is that since the rule's abolition, many more genuine applicants who had been kept apart have been allowed entry

> to be with their loved ones. The Independent revealed how hundreds of second and

ry purpose" rule, which said a after fearing they could be forced into a marriage they did not want. As a result, there was a huge growth in the use of "hounty hunters" who

> turned them to their families. Ann Cryer found she was regularly asked to help speed up visa applications after being elected as Labour MP for Keighley However after a time. she refused unless she could personally meet the bride on

to be intervening.

When I asked (the fathers) whether I could speak to their daughters. I was almost always told they were too shy."

tracked them down and re-"I decided to refuse to become involved unless the daughter came to see me so I could be sure she was not forced into the marriage. Now got round, I don't seem to be asked for that kind of help."

The select committee would now like MPs to follow Mrs Cryer's example.

It concluded: "We cannot believe that any of our colleagues would knowingly wish to play a part in forcing a couple together in this way. This is a very difficult area for all concerned, but we urge our colleagues to be aware of the fact that on occasion there is that word of that decision has a risk that they may unwittingly be party to bringing about

Disgraced peer out of jail on a Harley

IT WAS a passion for classic cars that precipitated Lord Brocket's downfall. So his decision to depart from prison yesterday astride a gleaming Harley-Davidson motorbike was equivalent to sticking two fingers up at authority.

This, after all, is the man who boasted to one of his accomplices in the £4.5m insurance scam that landed him in iail: "Don't tell me about the law. I make the law."

But it may be that, after two-and-a-half years behind bars, the third Baron Brocket has shed the arrogance of unearned wealth and privilege.

He certainly seemed eager to convey that impression yesterday. As he left Springbill open prison in Buckinghamshire, he told reporters: You really appreciate freedom once you've been inside. It makes you reassess life and all your priorities and what is important and what is not."

Dressed in jeans and leathers, Lord Brocket, whose five-year sentence handed family name is Charles Nall-Cain, said: "I have had a lot of time to reflect on everything. obviously regret very much the distress I have caused every-

Former Prisoner HG-1031 has much to reflect upon as he contemplates the debris of his shattered life.

his home and his reputation. His lawyers told the Appeal Court last November, during an unsuccessful attempt to secure him an earlier release, that he had endured "a fall of almost Faust-like proportions". The

ter of Arts has marked out

scholars from two of the world's

guished thinkers have gradu-

ated from Oxford and

Cambridge and placed the cov-

eted letters MA after their

Oxbridge launched a quiet, but

firm defence of their traditions

against the forces of moderni-

sation and reform in higher ed-

ucation after it emerged

university watchdogs were con-

sidering whether the degree

should have a place in the mod-

Agency (QAA), the body set up

The Quality Assurance

But yesterday the dons of

Some of the most distin-

oldest universities.

FOR CENTURIES the title Mas- BY BEN RUSSELL

BY KATHY MARKS

reality was far shahbier than those grandiose words suggest. Faced with £16m debts, partly amassed from building up his collection of nearly three dozen classic cars, Lord Brocket hatched a desperate and audacious scheme.

In 1991, in the middle of the night, he dismantled three Ferraris and a Maserati and hid the pieces around the 5.000-acre grounds of Brocket Hall, his family seat in Hertfordshire, now leased to hotel developers to pay off the debts.

Lord Brocket claimed the cars had been stolen and pursued his sceptical insurers for three years, even bringing a lawsuit against them.

It was his wife, Isa Lorenzo, a former model, who gave the game away, telling police about the fraud when she was arrested for forging drug prescriptions. He served just half of the

down at Luton Crown Court in February 1996. Although attacked and

threatened by fellow inmates, he managed to adapt to life "inside" and received an apparently warm send-off yesterday.

The turquoise Harley-Davidson Fatboy - retail value £14,000 - was left in the Springhill car He still has his title, but he park for him an hour hefore be has lost his wife, his children, emerged.

The disgraced peer posed for photographs on the bike and even offered one prison officer

Lord Brocket, 46, looking slimmer than in pre-prison days, said his first priority was

Education Correspondent

to oversee academic standards,

has launched a review of degree

titles in the hope of ending the

confusion over the huge num-

ber of different awards made by

MA degrees from the two uni-

versities as a misleading

anomaly, because they are

granted automatically to Bach-

elor of Arts graduates without

any extra work. At all other uni-

versities, students can only

earn the Master of Arts title

after a year's postgraduate

Yesterday Oxbridge dons de-

fended their age-old practices.

Many academics regard the



Lord Brocket set for a quick exit from Springhill prison yesterday after completing his sentence for a £4.5m insurance scam involving rare sports cars

now live with his ex-wife in

She divorced him in 1994. He did not say if he had any other plans, and refused to comment when asked if he had written a book about his experiences.

Before be left he shook hands with a group of warders and wished them all the best. A former fellow inmate shouted: "Good luck, Charlie!" as he

which grants an MA to any

graduate who pays a £10 fce 21

terms after they are awarded

their BA, said it was all a ques-

He said: "It's something

which is part of our heritage and

dates back to the earliest years

of the university when scholars

what the Oxbridge MAs are,

and there's no attempt to pre-

tend that it's something that it

A Cambridge spokesman added: "There's no harm in

having a review, but it would

need to consider for example

whether a PhD, Doctor of Phi-

losophy, is appropriate because

"We think most people know

studied for seven years.

tion of tradition.

A prison officer said: "His Lordship was quite a character

Oxbridge defends its MAs

against the modernisers

to see his three children, who He was one of the lads. We will miss him a lot." While at Ford open prison, before he moved to Springhill, Lord Brocket earned £6.50 a week emptying dustbins, an occupation that must have brought home to him how low he had sunk.

He has yet to prove whether he is truly a reformed character who has learnt the virtue of

One thing was clear, though, as he sped off down the driveway yesterday: he has not lost his taste for expensive toys.

who do not study philosophy."

under fire from some acade-

mics who fear setting stan-

dards for universities will

impose a national curriculum

powers to change the descrip-

tions of awards, although we

would hope to move things for-

ward. We are trying to pot

them into some national frame-

work, so that the university

sector and the public can eas-

tonomous, so we have to find a

"Institutions are all au-

ily see what awards mean.

A spokeswoman for the QAA

for higher education.

played down the review. She said: "The QAA has no

The QAA has already come

A spokesman for Oxford. PhDs are awarded to people

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Women sue over contraceptive

AT LEAST 250 women claiming to have suffered serious side effects from the contraceptive implant Norplant are to sue the distributors, it was revealed

Women who have used the contraceptive, which provides birth control cover for up to five years, had until yesterday to lodge their claims for compen-

More than 500 women concerned about the alleged side effects of the contraceptive release the hormone lev-

By GLENDA COOPER

which ranged from depression and paranoia to weight gain and hair loss have contacted a helpline set up at the beginning of June by an umbrella group

Known as the "fit and forget" contraceptive, Norplant is used hy two million women worldwide. It consists of six matchstick-sized rods worn under the skin of the upper arm which

onorgestrel. They cannot be seen but can be felt. Doctors have to be trained in insertion and removal

Alida Coates, a solicitor with Irwin Mitchell, said that of the women who have come forward, a writ had been issued on behalf of at least 250. A test case of 10 women against the suppliers of Norplant in this country, Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd, is expected to be heard early next year at the High

"Ten cases will be selected to go ahead to trial in the New Year." said Ms Coates. "These cases will be representative of the cases as a whole. Most of the issues will be dealt with in these 10 cases and if the cases are successful, I would expect that the majority of the remaining cases will be dealt with through negotiations.*

A spokesman for Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd said the company was standing by its

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Fringe jumps the gun on Edinburgh

THE EDINBURGH Festival BY DAVID LISTER opeos next week - only it doesn't. The biggest arts festival in the world has thrown punters into confusioo following a decision by performers on the Fringe in start early because it might be too cold in Scotland by the eod of August.

The unprecedented move to start the Fringe early has heen ignored by the main international festival and the prestigious book and film festivals, all of which are sticking to the usual starting date of Sunday 16 August.

But the Fringe will begin its round of plays and stand-up comedy this weekend, because, according to Fringe director Hilary Strong, the anarchic, irreverent and challenging performers are worried about the cold.

She said: "The Fringe performers are motivated (to change the dates) by the fact that the third week of the festival following the bank holiday Monday has traditionally been much quieter and the weather frequently not as pleasant." But Ms Strong and the

Fringe seem as confused as

Fringe starts this weekend. Fringe Sunday, which traditionally starts the Fringe Festival with an open air performance and children's shows, will not take place until

oext Sunday, 16 August. For the festival's army of agents, wannabe actors and directors and networkers, this is a nightmare.

the Roundhouse in London, mières for plays by Sam Shepsaid yesterday: "No one knows wheo to go. The networkers are distraught. They don't know when to go and work the Mr Blackman said over 90

per cent of the comedy acts can also be seeo in Loodon, though he added that there was no substitute for "the buzz of Edinburgh and being able to see three or more abows in an

The Fringe's early start has angered International festival director Brian McMaster. A spokeswoman for Mr McMaster said: "We think it's a great shame the people who will everyone else. Though the lose out are the audiences.

What makes Edinburgh great is the critical mass, the choice you get when all the festivals are running together." Despite the shadow cast by

the festivals falling out, this year promises some high class entertainment The international festival's music programme ranges

from a residency by the Royal Opera to concerts of Scottish harp music. The Fringe is its normal Paul Blackman, director of eclectic self with British pre-

hard and Dario Fo, three men

turning Chekhov's Three Sis-

ters into a gay musical and comedian Arthur Smith stagng a play on a putting green. British premières of Robert Redford's The Horse Whisperer, the glam rock movie Velvet Goldmine, and Primary Colors, none too loosely based on the Clintons, are

Novelist Fay Weldon gives The Scotsman Millennium Lecture at the book festival Entitled Adam and Eve and Tony Blair, the subject is men. women and politics in the 20th

among the highlights of the

film festival.



Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, with fellow Druids after the formal initiation ceremony at the National Eisteddfod yesterday

Davies the Druid officially Bard in Wales

THE WELSH Secretary, Ron Davies, ted into the Gorsedd of Bards, the was yesterday promoted from Tony Eisteddfod's ruling body. Blair's inner circle to another magic circle. He was transformed into a Druid at the National Eisteddfod, the annual celebration of Welsh culture and tradition.

After a solemn procession to a ring of standing stones at Bridgend, Glamorgan, Mr Davies was officially admit-

The cabinet minister, in long white robes, and flowing head-dress, Mr Davies was hard to spot among the 27 other similarly-garbed newcomers pre-sented to Archdruid Dafydd Rowlands, who presided at the 200-year-old ceremony. Heralds blew fanfares, a harpist

played and flower girls danced in a ritual more artistic and colourful than most of the parliamentary customs Mr Davies is used to at Westminster.

Eisteddfod officials, who observe a strict all-Welsh rule, made no concessions for the Welsh Secretary who is not a fluent speaker, although he is an enthusiastic learner. Politicians are rarely

received into the celebrated Celtic band of poets, musicians, writers and artists. But Mr Davies was singled out for his work in steering through the Government's devolution plans.

He had played "a determined role at a crucial period in the history of Wales", said the citation read out by Eisteddfod

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Fraudbuster hero branded a racist

A HOUSING official lauded by MPs for flushing out benefit fraud has been hranded racist by an industrial tribunal

Bernard Crofton, whose tenure as housing director in Britain's poorest borough was plagued by controversy, was found to have discriminated four times against a colleague.

During his seven years at Hackney Council in east London, Mr Crofton devoted his energies to rooting out housing major split when he claimed Sam Yeboah, the council's personnel director, was failing to tackle recruitment irregulari-

ties among west Africans. Mr Crofton was dismissed and later re-instated but an internal inquiry in 1996 by Ian Macdonald, QC, accused him of being a har and gaining re-instatement to his £70,000-a-year job by deception. The inquiry found Mr Yeboah had been gravely

wronged and shabbily treated". In spite of that, Mr Crofton

BY STEVE BOGGAN

oewspapers, was portrayed as a victim in a oumber of BBC documeotaries and earned generous support from the cross-party Commons Social Services Committee, whose was "vital" Mr Crofton remain.

Mr Yeboah took Mr Crofton and Hackney Council to an industrial tribunal after leaving benefit fraud but he caused a his joh because of the recruitment allegations. Yesterday. after 103 days, the tribunal found unanimously that both had racially discriminated against him on several counts.

The full findings and the damages to be awarded will follow. The council refused to comment until then but it is understood there is relief that a further claim that chief executive, Tony Elliston, discriminated against Mr Yeboah was rejected.

"I feel completely vindicated." Mr Yeboah said last night.

"I was always confident that the tribunal would deliver justice. continued to be backed by some It has been a nightmare. a most harrowing experience. I believe my career has been completely ruined.... The chances of another employer

employing me are very slim." In the Macdonald report, chairman, Frank Field, said it Mr Crofton was accused of fostering an atmosphere in which black employees were subjected to a witch hunt and where. on one occasion, the names of 600 employees were secretly passed to the Immigration Department for checking.

The report said: "Certain individuals exhibited the corporate view that 'too many bloody Africans' were being appointed to jobs in Housing. 'African' became synonymous with fraud ... which in turn fed the myth of a great West African conspiracy.

"I have ... come to the cooclusion that the allegations are without foundation. Mr Croftoo failed to return

calls yesterday.

IN BRIEF

Exploratory cancer operation for iailed bank swindler Leeson

NICK LEESON, the 31-year-old rogue trader jailed in Singapore, is to have an operation oext week to discover how far his colon cancer has spread, his sister Sara, 21, said yesterday. It has already affected his lymph nodes. Leeson is serving six and a half years for financial scams which broke Barings Bank in 1995 with debts of £860m.

Dismissal costs Al Fayed £90,000

MOHAMED AL FAYED'S company Liberty Publishing and Media was yesterday ordered by the High Court to pay about £90,000 to television producer Mike Hollingsworth for failing to give him six months notice by summarily dismissing him as managing director of Liberty Broadcasting.

Priest jailed for assaulting boys A CATHOLIC priest was jailed for nine years yesterday for

12 indecent assaults on boys under 18 and three charges of indecency with a child. Bradford Crown Court heard how David Crowley, 44, plied boys with drink before getting them to take part in orgies at his presbytery.

Paracetamol packs recalled

HALF A million packs of paracetamol tablets were recalled yesterday because they carry the wrong dosage instructions. About 400,000 of 16- and 32-caplet packs delivered to Tesco supermarkets and Co-op and Unichem pharmacies carry the wrong instructions for children's dosage.

Solicitor struck off

A SCOTTISH solicitor who falsified divorce papers and paid £15,000 to clients out of his own pocket has been struck off by his colleagues. A disciplinary tribunal found Kenneth Anderson, of Linlithgow guilty of misleading clients.

HOWARD JACOBSON

Who better to be among than the Cornish when the planets start playing up?

WEEKEND REVIEW, PAGE 5



Beat the jams with 'rat run' roadmaps 9

By RANDEEP RAMESH Transport Correspondent

A GUIDE on how to avoid traffic jams on some of the most coogested motorways in Britain will be launched next week amid claims by motoring organisations it was a "rat runners' charter". The Birmingham Jam-

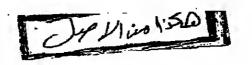
buster Guide details routes for skirting clogged up stretches of the M5, M6 and M42 - which can be congested with traffic for more than five hours a day.

It ran into immediate opposition from motoring organisations. The AA said it would endanger lives by creating dangerous rat-runs through quiet residential areas.

"These roads are basically inappropriate for the levels of traffic that could be sent there." said a spokesman for the AA. "What you could see is a lot of high speed traffic zooming though quiet urban areas."

Give Way, the company which is producing the guide, denied it would result in speeding traffic oo residential roads.

Caroline Oliver, marketing manager, said: We have extensively researched the routes and most of the roads are used by the police as diversions."





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Munich £79. Vienna £89.

Prague £129. Edinburgh £59.

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Other destinations also available. Telephone lines open for booking 9am 8th August 1998 and close midnight 9th August 1998. Fares shown are return from London and subject to availability, out bound journeys must be made between 8th August 1998 - 30th November 1998 inclusive. Prices shown include pre-paid taxes correct at 27th July 1998. A minimum of two nights and a maximum stay of one month is required. These fares are the mode between the same route to the United Kingdom. Where relevant, a available for seats in economy class on selected direct flights operated by British Airways plc and participating franchise partners departing from and returning by the same route to the United Kingdom. Where relevant, a available for seas in ecolomy one same route to the connecting franchise partners may be purchased for an additional cost of £49, when booking a flight under this offer. There are a limited number of tickets available under this offer for eligible flights which will be sold on a first come first served basis. Any single booking can contain a maximum of 9 passengers travelling together. There can be no refunds, passenger to the contain of tackets available under the passenger of age of 18 years. All passengers are carried in accordance with our Notice and Conditions of Contract, as stated on each ticket, and our General Conditions of Carriage for Passengers and Baggage (available an request). age of 10 years. Combined with any other promotion or special affer, Infants will be charged 10% of the adult affer fare. No other discount (eg child) is applicable. Frequent flyer miles are not earned on these tickets.

1 Wales

r her 'acist

Beat the ams w rat run roadmi

Never mind the spin, a fearless praised week leaves Frank still fighting

LESS THAN a month ago, he BY PAUL WAUGH was the second Beveridge, the towering intellect who would revolutionise the Welfare State and confirm Tony Blair's destiny as a great reforming Prime Minister: Today, as he finally starts his summer boliday. Frank Field is back in the role of the outsider, a voice in the wilderness shunned by ministers and despised by New Labour apparatchiks.

No more ministerial red nothing else. boxes, no access to Whitehall's research machinery, not even a chauffeur. Worst of all for this deceptively ambitious politician, no power.

Even hy the hreakneck speed standards of the modern political demise, it has been a pretty spectacular fall from

This was the man who would in a phrase that has come to take on a haunting trony for both him and his onponents, "think the unthinkable" on social policy.

After years on the back-benches and a lifetime working on poverty and benefits issues, his elevation to the rank of minister seemed to confirm the visionary spirit of the new Government.

He had the ear of the Prime Munister: with whom he shared a deeply held Christian conviction that the restoration of self-reliance should form a centrepiece of welfare reform. He was made a Privy Councillor, appointed to a key cabinet comnintee on long-term Government spending, and given the task of drawing up a Green Paper on benefit and pensions

Feted by Left and Right for his forthright opinions and innovative policy ideas, there seemed nothing the man could do no wrong.

"He was like a cluld in a sweet sliop," one colleague said. For years, he had been Britain's unofficial expert on welfare and now be had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to actually carry out his pet the-

But as long ago as last year his enemies began talking about Mr Field's inability to come up with practical means of implementing his laudible ideals of cutting welfare hills and ending the dependency culture. Crucially, the Chanrelior was opposed to many of

The briefing against him that his frequent disagree- wanted to serve at Cabinet sion will be still there waiting

Political Correspondent

ments with the Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, ran deeper than a mere personality clash.

He made it known to his close friends that he wanted "executive responsibility", a curiously arcane, Field-like shorthand for a Cabinet post. He wanted Harriet's job. And

Already, it appeared that this slightly-built, diffident man was not simply a policy wonk or a benefits nerd with his head in

For those who witnessed his bitter fight to rid his local party of Militant and fend off deselection in the 1980s and 1990s, was no surprise that the Field steel showed itself. "He was, after all, politician first, policy-maker second," one MP

Yet when the Prime Minister rejected his plea to join the Cabinet, the minister notorious for his loathing of half-measures felt he had no option but to re-

His shock departure last Monday ruined the Government's attempts to present the reshuffle as a nifty piece of management, and kicked off 12 days of mid-summer trouble that teft Labour looking defensive and vindictive.

First reports claimed that it was an amicable parting, with Mr Field rejecting other jobs and being told he still has a direct line to Downing Street. But there were already semi-official suggestions that Mr Field bad gone because he had "failed to

Two days later, be used an emotional Commons personal statement to accuse Chancellor Gordon Brown of frustrating his reform plans, singling him out as the main obstacle to his ideas for compulsory second pensions

Mr Blair and Mr Brown walked out of the chamber as the ex-minister rose to deliver his statement. Downing Street denied Mr Brown had been obstructive and suggested Mr Field has been too theoretical, Mr Blair's spokesman saying: "It's time to get the job done and not just talk about it."

A couple of days later, Mr Brown went on the offensive, g the Daily Mail that Mr his ideas on pensions and mean Field's proposals would have cost the taxpayer "billions".

The mud-slinging reached began in earnest this spring, its height last Saturday when with Alastair Darling's name the Prime Minister's official



took the view that his talents fluence." were not best suited to running a department," be was quoted

as saying. Ministers and spin doctors Mr Field in the Sunday Times the People and the Sunday Telegraph. In the Sunday Tele- able" graph, be stated that Treasury imum pension would "send out pre-sciently mentioned to those spokesman, attacked Mr a message that if you don't around him as a possible suc-ressor, it has since beome clear minister. Frank said he only money, the guaranteed pen-

level but the Prime Minister for you. It is a corrupting in-

terest exchanges since the Labour "spin doctors" as a Government took office last were furious at a media blitz by year. Mr Field was described as were "paltry and unpublish-

This Monday, Downing plans for a means-tested min- Street attempted to distance the Prime Minister from the row. "We are not engaged in a war of words with Frank Field," a spokesman said

But the Birkenhead MP was

so stung by the attacks on his character that he decided to go The negative briefings then on Radio 2's Jimmy Young" began in earnest, with the bit- Show and promptly dubbed

"cancer" at the beart of Gov-

"In the long run, you cannot the heart of our very existence and undermine the way minis-

ters behave." made a keynote speech to the Social Market Foundation and

over welfare policy.

He denounced Mr Brown's . flagship policy for encouraging. the unemployed back to workthe Working Families' Tax Credit - as a system designed to lead employers and staff into a "spider's wen of dishona cancer that will eat away at were furious, but simply wanted the row to go away.

Unfortunately for his opponents, Mr Field now plans a On Thursday night, Mr Field self-styled crusade, a "campaign" as be calls it, to ensure immediately re-ignited the row follow Gordon Brown's path away.

towards greater means testing

of benefits. More policy papers are:

planned. Worse still, more revelations about the workings of Government, are also in the

run a Government like this. It's esty and corruption", Minister of his life finally behind him, he will today settle down in his book-lined home in Hamilton Square, in central London, to catch up on academic papers and magazine reviews His "campaign" is on hold until the that the Government does not autumn. But he isn't going

as HK stewards

BY MARTIN HICKMAN

DEMOCRACY IN Hong Kong a year after the handover to China is "seriously flawed" and needs urgent reform, a Commons committee said in a report yesterday.

The Foreign Affairs Select Committee criticised a millionplus drop in the former colony's electorate, and urged introduction of universal suffrage for legislative council elections and for the post of chief executive.

At present the legislative council did not "accurately reflect the popular will", and the chief executive was appointed by Beijing, the report said.

But the MPs praised China's overall stewardship of Hong Kong, now a Special Administration Region following the handover from Britain on July 1 last year, particularly on the right to protest.

The committee found little evidence of repression.

While it is clear that a structure for repression of this freedom exists (some of it inherited from colonial times) it is not used," the report said. "On the evidence we have

seen, the actions of the police and the civil authorities in this area do not appear to have altered since the handover." Under the "one country, two systems" plan, China promised

to allow Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign affairs and defence. Pro-democracy activists feared the Chinese authorities

would immediately crack down on dissent and crush prodemocracy and other protests. The committee singled out changes to the electoral system

for the 60-seat legislative council introduced by Britain in 1995. The number of voters in 30 seats reserved for husiness and professionals fell from 1,147,107 in 1995 to 138,984 in 1998 while a further 10 seats

were decided by a small elec-

tion committee. "The results of two thirds of the seats in the legislative council - 40 out of 60 - are decided by fewer than 140,00 voters out of a total registered electorate of about 2.8 million," said the report. "We believe the struc-

ture is fundamentally flawed." The 12-member committee urged China to bring forward plans for the introduction of unitions in 2008, criticising the timetable as "too distant"

It also noted a degree of selfcensorship by the media, but prospered and newspaper editors "did not appear constrained" by the likely official reaction to stories.

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No change in Labour's tough policy on inflation, says Byers

STEPHEN BYERS, chief sec- By Paul Waugh retary to the Treasury, de-fended the Government's

As manufacturers called for greater support to stave off crippling interest rates and a high pound, Mr Byers warned there could be no change on monetary policy and that "difficult" decisions had to be taken to ensure long-term stability and growth.

In his first speech since his promotion to the Cabinet tast week, the chief secretary said the economy had to be stowed to avoid a return of the boom and bust days of the tate 1980s and early 1990s.

Mr Byers told Labour party members in London that the decision to give the Bank of England power to set interest rates was vital to achieve the

tough stance on inflation last low inflation which would ennight in a speech outlining the "Third Way" for the nation's businesses to plan ahead,

The former schools minister reiterated the Chancellor's call for pay restraint for directors, saying that rising wages would hamper efforts to keep the economy on a stable footing. A recent survey showed that boardroom pay increases are

"All of us, starting from the hoardroom outwards, must now show the responsibility that the country needs" said Mr "It would be the worst of

running at 18 per cent.

short-termism to pay ourselves Mr Byers said that with Par-

liament in recess it was now

more today at the cost of higher interest rates, fewer jobs and slower growtit tomorrow."

Stephen Byers: pledge on Labour's monetary policy

He added: "Our approach is often termed the Third Way. It

la of politics and consider instead "the big picture".

ence between the old Left and the new Right in an attempt to find a messy compromise tocated somewhere in the middle Way are those which underpin a better society - decency, fairness, liberty and self-fulfilment. With regard to the economy. our Third Way is designed to

combine dynamism with equi-Initiatives such as the New Deal to get people back to work, tax and benefit reforms.

Third Way is not about some-

how trying to split the differ-

The values of the Third

cutting corporation tax and setting clear rules for fiscal and monetary policy bore out this balanced approach, he said.

Mr Byers hit back at Tory attacks on the Government's policies, saying shadow Chancellor Peter Lilley had taken "the fifth amendment" on the Tories' time to get away from the triv-needs to be made clear that the proposals for interest rates.

It is hard to take seriously the criticism of the shadow Chancellor seriously, given that while be was a minister at the Treasury in the early 1990s, he saw interest rates rise to 15 per cent, let inflation rise to 10 per cent and toterated borrowing to begin its rise to £50 hillion, its highest ever level

"John Redwood, whilst being critical of the present level of interest rates simply refuses to answer when asked what level he believes they should be at."

But Mr Redwood had repeated his claims that the Government had hit manufacturing hard while failing to meet its inflation target for every month

of its office but one. "Labour has as much chance of abolishing the trade cycle as they have of persuading Mr Prescott to travet everywhere by push cycle," said Mr

MPs urge action over US pollution

THE GOVERNMENT should put targets unless developing coun- Government should also "conemissions of the greenhouse process. gas CO2 to reduce global pollution. MPs said vesterday.

discharges of greenhouse

pressure on America to cut tries are also involved in the tribute to efforts" to encour-The Environmental Audit

Committee today urged the The US - which accounts for Government and the European some 25 per cent of the world's Union to use "all available means to encourage the US to gases - has refused to ratify the ratify" the protocol. In its report MPs said the

sign up to emission reduction

MPs said a vital element of the drive to cut emissions of greenhouse gases is the agree-

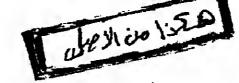
the Kyoto Protocol. Kyoto com- the Government to set out for age developing countries to an overall 5 per cent reduction measures to meet this aim by in their 1990 levels of emissions 2010. of greenhouse gases between

The MPs stressed that the forcement arrangements under "very challenging" and urged duction target."

mitted developed countries to consultation a programme of

But they added: "We were disappointed that the Government did not detail to us subunilateral UK target of a 20 per stantive work to support its ment of effective audit and en- cent reduction for CO2 was adoption of the 20% CO2 re-





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Smack City tries to kick the habit

IT TOOK the death of a 13-year- BY STEPHEN GOODWIN old boy from heroin to arouse the people of Cranhill to reclaim the housing scheme's mean stairways and corridors from the drug dealers.

The trade in beroin, amphetamines and cannabis was quite open and often backed by violence. To youngsters here, picking their way past a holloweyed figure injecting heroin in a tower-block corridor was commonplace.

This week's Home Office survey warning of a heroin epidemic among teenagers was no shock to Cranhill, where for years parents have warned their children not to pick up needles or "sweetles" but felt powerless to fight back.

There is little glamour in the drugs culture of Cranhill or in the place itself - a collection of 2,400 homes in council tenements, 1960s maisonettes and Glasgow. The only obviously

Scotland Correspondent

Prison, known locally as "the hig house".

As much as its neighbour, Easterhouse, Cranhill fits Billy Connolly's description of "a desert wi' windaes". A lot of the windows though, close to where 13-year-old, Allan Harper died and in October, three small children and their mother perished in a fire, are boarded up.

Allan was found dead from an overdose on 3 January in one of the maisonettes; his shoulder gnawed by the three bull terriers belonging to his mother's boyfriend. He may have bought the heroin from one of the ice cream vans that ply the housing schemes (estates).

non observed, had Allan been three years older nobody would



Gaille McCann, of Mothers Against Drugs, looks out across Cranhill estate with her sons Barry, left, and Brian

year old man; a run-of-the-mill

all, in a sense, to hlame for the tragedy, struck home. A candle-

been extinguished. "When you live in a community where drugs are rife you tend to keep your head down," said Gaille McCann, a councillor and a

formed Mothers Against Drugs

The dealers do not necessarily conform to a stereotype thug with loaded pockets. Housewives commonly deal from their homes, confident that there is little chance of being caught and virtually none of being sent to prison.

The mothers' group and Easterhouse police, who cover Cranhill, are bent on cracking that sense of invulnerability. Neighbours along the corridors or the open balconies know who is dealing. The change since Allan's death is in the readiness to pass informahion to the police or perhaps warn a housewife pusher to "chuck it" or else.

Superintendent Stuart Miller, head of Greater Easterhouse police, says there has been a 10-fold increase in responses to appeals for information since the group was set

For their part, in the first five mooths of this year, the police searched 191 homes and more than 1,000 people for drugs. About 230 people were charged with offences from dealing to possession. Seizures included in drugs hut not for the lesser boys this time next week."

£500,000 of heroin and £200,000 of amphetamine.

The raids continue. A fortnight ago officers simultaneously hurst into 12 flats at Longstone Place, one of the three tower blocks. More than £5,000 of heroin was seized and £8,000 of stolen property recovered. Seven people were charged with dealing and four with possession.

One mother, Roseanne. dren in the 17-storey block, said Longstone was emerging from a nightmare. The tower, with 102 flats, used to be known as "Smack City". In what today sounds an act of mind-boggling naivety, the former Glasw district council earmarked it for under 25s only. Would-be dealers on the housing waiting list were desperate for a place in the "party-party flats" but life for ordinary families was hell.

The fight-back for Longstone began two years ago when residents got the council to drop the under 25s policy. Now, prospective tenants have to go

offence of possession. So the savvy dealer only carries a modest amount and contacts a mate by mobile phone for

Even when charged with dealing, pushers can spend months out on bail before a case is heard and often plea bargaining ends with a conviction only for possession. The mothers would like the lawyers and judges to swap homes with struggling to hring up two chil-them for a week to get in touch with the social realities of places like Cranhill.

"They just see what's on the charge sheet." said Sandra Gilchrist, chairperson of the group. "They don't know what we have to live with."

But the mums are getting heard. In June, Scottish Office minister Henry McLeish promised to take up the women's concerns with the judges. However, it will not just be about evictions and jail sentences. The group will call for prevention services in schools. a crisis centre and long-term help to overcome drug depen-A pusher-tenant can he Cann a mother of four is keenly evicted if convicted of dealing aware: "It could be one of my

Farmers targeted by quadnappers

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY Environment Correspondent

RUSTLING has taken on a new look - thieves who once took sheep now steal the quad bikes farmers increasingly use to look after their flocks

Gangs of quadnappers steal the machines to order, according to the agricultural insurers General Accident. The all-terrain vehicles are becoming essential for many farmers, for everything from carrying spreading equipment to inspecting fences and reaching land inaccessible to other ve hicles, besides checking stock.

But their popularity has made them a target, and what General Accident calls a "staggering" one in four vehicles are

In the past five years there has been a 30-per-cent increase in theft of the bikes, worth up to £6,000 each.

Thieves are increasingly turning to farms, where thousands of pounds worth of equip-ment frequently lie vulnerable." said General Accident's agriculture manager, John Kaye.

Quad bikes have become essential equipment for farmers

"Quad bikes are particularly soft targets because of the ease with which they can be loaded on to a van or trailer and then rapidly sold on. "Nevertheless, an increasing

number of thefts occur as a resuit of 'casualness' on the part leaving an expensive quad hike unattended at the edge of a field near a busy road or failing to put anything more than a flimsy barn door between a thief and thousands of pounds worth of

There were few lengths to which thieves would not go, Mr

"In the past year or so we've seen claims for a £6,000 quad bike which was chained and padlocked in a custom-made steel case concreted into the of their owners - whether it's floor of a locked outbuilding being stolen with the aid of an acetylene blow torch, as well as thieves removing a £2,000 vehicle chained and padlocked inside a barn before pushing it across three fields in broad daylight."

BP calls the greens black

reported by BP, Britain's higgest oil and gas producer, for of the exclusion zone around causing an oil spill amounting to less than two pints.

Workers on BP's Foitagen slick" shortly after the MV Greenpeace left the area.

A spokesman for BP which provides 17 per cent of Britain's said: "The Greenpeace vessel

GREENPEACE has been By LINUS GREGORIADIS

our site. I don't know exactly what they were doing there, just watching us, I suppose. But production vessel, 100 miles when they sailed off there was west of Shetland, spotted an "oil a sheen on the water. We have a statutory duty to report such things to the Department of Trade and Industry."

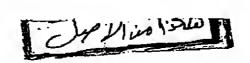
BP staff took photographs oil and 13 per cent of its gas, and samples of the tainted water for investigation, Alsailed past in open seas outside though the leak was small BP

stood by the decision to report it, the spokesman said.

A spokesman for Greenpeace, which has been campaigning against BP's North Atlantic production sites, said the spill was probably caused hy rain washing oil off the

He said the authorities considered the incident insignificant and took no action. "The report to the Marine Polluhon Control Unit indicated that less than a litre was seen."





Carey apologises to Christian gays

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canter- By CLARE GARNER bury, Dr George Carey, yesterday apologised to lesbian and gay Christians for the pain they have experienced as a result of the Lambeth Conference of bishops' hardline resolution on homosexuality, and underlined

his commitment to dialogue. In his first and only appearance to the media during the conference, Dr Carey, president of the worldwide Anglican Communion, attempted to appease liberal Anglicans by stressing that lesbian and gay Christians

are "full members of the Body of Christ".

"On human sexuality, we have been quite open in acknowledging our differences," he said. "We have worked hard, and the result, while restating a traditional position on homosexual practice, clearly inchides homosexual people in the Church. We have clearly stated that all baptised people are full members of the Body of Christ, and we specifically included the commitment to concame at the end of three weeks accepting the ordination of peared as an alternative to tinue to listen to the experience

of gay and lesbian Christians. I am sad that our resolution has caused them such pain. I can only try to reassure them of my commitment to continue to listen, and to try to understand more of their experience of the Church, and I invite them to continue the journey with us, however painful, and I ask them to listen to the voice of the Church as much as the rest of us must listen to them." Dr Carev's reassurance

of bitter disagreement between the alliance of evangelical bishops and those from Africa and Asia who reject homosexuals as sinners, and liberal bishops, particularly from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Bishops from the latter

practising gays. Dr Carey, who himself adopts a traditional stance on homosexuality, stunned dele-

gates during the conference when he turned up at a drinks party hosted by the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. He defended the idea that there countries, where practising could be dialogue despite the homosexuals are knowingly orstrongly-worded statement dained, wanted the Church to which even did away with word relax its attitude to gays by sanctioning the blessing of open to misinterpretation. Insame-sex unions and officially stead the word "abstinence" ap-

marriage in the final resolution. "The thrust of dialogue does

not assume we begin from a place of wishy-washiness," he said. The resolution passed on Wednesday comes down firmly in favour of a literal interpretation of Scripture on matters of homosexuality. It was, Dr Carey said, a "defining moment". However, he added: "I don't rule out where the debate "chastity" because it might be will take us. I know as someone rooted in Scripture, that I am

much more comfortable with

the text of the resolution we passed (as opposed to earlier. more liberal texts)."

The Bishop of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Richard Holloway yesterday apologised for a public attack the previous day on Dr Carey's contribution to the homosexuality debate. He had described it as "pathetic", little more than "a nice fluffy epilogue". And when asked about the quality of Dr Carey's leadership preceding the vote, he had asked: "What leadership?"

Bishop Holloway yesterday

"pathetic". "I now acknowledge that the word I used in my pain and frustration was ill-judged and hurtful and I hereby unre-

servedly apologise for using it." Although Dr Carey had failed to prevent the conference being dominated by the issue of homosexuality, he said he was not disheartened. "I believe we are going to make huge progress on international debt and the ministry to young people."

Marriage made in heaven? Review, page 8

TV exploits animals' • pain, says Morris

ONE MIGHT have thought that BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH Johnny Morris would consider it animal magic. But as yet another "pet tv" programme hits our screens, the doyen of animal programmes has accused television producers of exsake of ratings.

His complaint followed news that former Blue Peter presenters John Noakes and Peter Purves are to front two more new shows about pets. Next week, viewers can choose from 14 programmes on the welfare of furry or scaly friends, ranging from tales of rescuing Spot from a roof to what happened to Snowy the hamster when he ate slug pellets.

It may be true that the British are obsessed with their animals but Mr Morris, the presenter of the much-loved Animal Magic, believes it has all gone too far. "It is enough to make you vomit. I never look at those programmes, I have seen

Purves: Ex-Blue Peter presenter to front new show

a sample of them and that was

enough for me," he said.
"They are purely sentimental, money-making things which provide vehicles for people to watch animals who have suffered and are in distress, or have been abandoned. People make entertainment out of it.

They show some doe-eyed spaniel with a broken leg, and what could be more touching than that, but it is a disgraceful way to entertain people."

Mr Morris. who began Animal Magic in 1962, said his programme never exploited a sick animal. To turn this into entertainment, he said, "makes my head spin", adding: "There are a lot of people who love to watch it and shed a tear but it is nut my idea of the way television should be used."

But the fascination of comanimals shows no sign of slowing. Mr Noakes's show, Mad spokesman.

About Pets, will travel the country looking for people with unusual performing pets. Mr Purves' show - Pets Go Public - is a gameshow whereby viewploiting sick animals for the ers have to guess which pet goes with which owner.

Not content with showing Pet Rescue five times a week. Channel 4 will soon be offering the hapless viewer Animalicious - a "funny but wry account of how some normal lives have been affected by chance encounters with animals, from the mad squirrel that terrorised a whole neighbourhood to the parakeet that broke a man's neck".

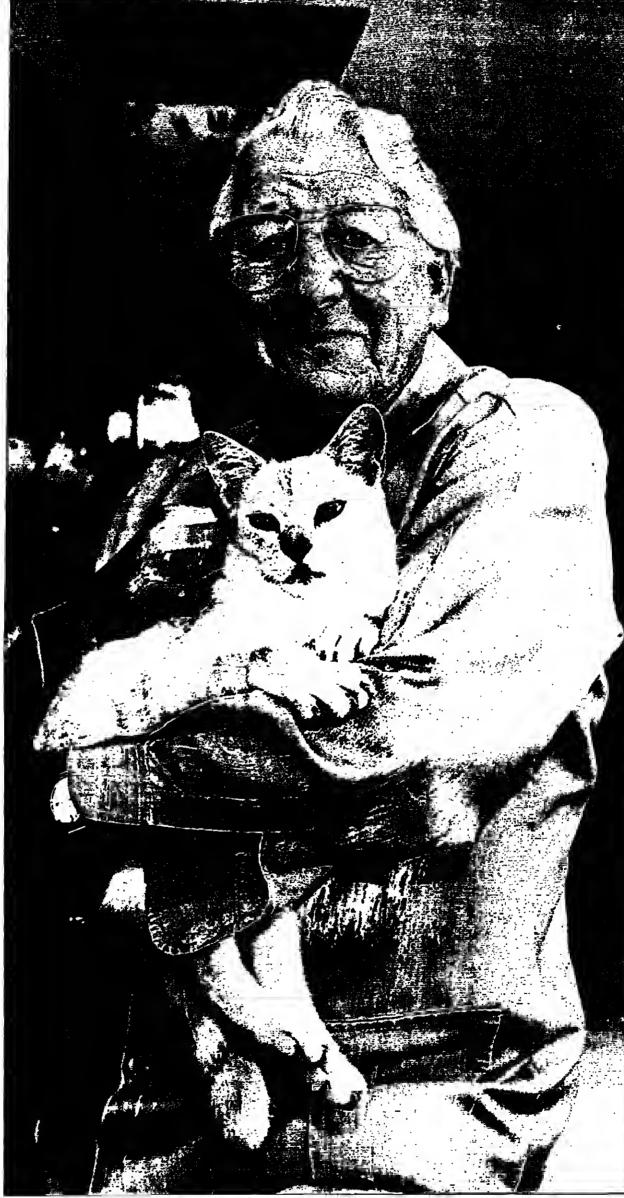
A spokeswoman for Channel 4 defended the nightly showing of Pet Rescue and its summer spin-off Pet Rescuers. And the spin off of the spin-off, the Pet Rescue Road Show. "It does seem to be the theme of the moment and there are an awful lot of programmes, although the "Having said that, Pet Rescue is enormously popular and the audience does get involved in the lives of the animals. It proves that we are a nation of enimal lovers

The BBC was equally de-fensive about Animal Hospital which attracts around nine million viewers. "There is no doubt that Rolf Harris has struck a rich vein with his brilliant presentation, and the reaction from the audience was so immense that the other channels were bound to latch onto that." a spokesman said

The BBC has at least two more programmes in store, one about zoos, the other about their keepers. "I don't think that peoples' interest in animals' will ever wane," the BBC

Certainly the RSPCA, which acts as an advisor on many of the programmes, is hoping that the public will not tire of this genre. Not only does it educate. it says, but after every Pet Rescue, for example, members of the public are invited to ring in and offer to adopt the pets fea-

There are hundreds of calls daily, many from the schoolchildren who avidly discuss the show in the playground the next day. "People are generally concerned about animal welfare and the programmes have made them more aware that there are still people who neglect their pets. They are much more likely to contact us now missioning editors with sick and we can investigate and we will prosecute," said an RSPCA



Johnny Morris, the animal expert, and his cat. He believes television is exploiting animals to up ratings

Mission sets sail to solve the riddle of missing trawler

mysteries - what happened to the Hull trawler, the Goul may be answered this week. Mansal 18, a purpose-built survey ship hired by the British government to examine the wreck of the trawler, sets sail this afternoon from Kristiansund, in Norway. SEE PAGE 18 OF ISM

Gaul sımk.

ONE OF the great British sea BY PAUL LASHMAR

The 216 foot Goul, a factory Berents Sea, during a force nine gale with 40 foot waves, somewas lost with all hands, some 36 gence gathering."

In the intervening 24 years, It should be in position over speculation has mounted as to the cause of the sinking. Why the wreck of the sunken trawler by Monday afternoon, Monsol did one of the newest, largest and safest trawlers in the fleet 18 carries extensive underwater survey equipment and camsuddenly sink without even eras and should be able to sending a distress signal? provide vital clues as to why the

Cold War spying for British Intelligence. In 1974, Labour Detrawler, disappeared in the icy fence Minister Bill Rogers wrote: "I can assure you that the British trawler fleet is not time after 8 February, 1974. It involved in any way in intelli-

Twenty years on, Lord Rogers now admits that he was "misled" by officials after television programmes showed that Naval Intelligence regularly used trawlers and their crews to spy on the movement of Soviet ships and submarines Since the Gaul vanished, out of the key northern naval there have been allegations port of Murmansk.

istry of Defence admitted that Hull trawlers were hired to conduct special missions. The MOD, however, insists these operations stopped in 1973, a year before the sinking.

This week, Hull skipper Jack Lilley said he was recruited by the secret intelligence service to take photographs of a submarine base while he was in Russia at a fishing exhibition. He revealed the man who helped, by keeping Russian officials occupied while he took the photographs, was Peter Nellist. Nellist was skipper of the Gaul.

A CUDDLY WEEK OF PETS ON TELEVISION

SUNDAY 9 AUGUST BBC1, 6.30pm, Animal Hospital Roadshow: Rolf Harris (right) meets patients of the local vet Neil Forbes, including a heavily pregnant cocker spaniel and an abandoned dog on the verge of

ITV Granada, 6.30pm. Animal Rescuers: This week A horse with a deep head-wound turns up at someone else'e stables

and a swan leaves its pond and wanders across e busy

Channel 5, 5.30am, Wildlife SOS: Life at a wildlife sanctuary.

Channel 4, 5.30cm. Pet Rescuers: People who care for neglected animals. This week: Carla Lane.

ITV Granada, 8.30pm. Animal Rescuers: This week Canada geese which have been covered in oil need emergency treatment, and a badger is trapped in a garage forecourt.

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST Channel 4, 5.30pm, Pet Rescuers: A woman whose home is devoted to rabbits, and a dog who gets stuck on top of a BBC 1, 8pm. Vets In Practice:

A bemused budgie keeps Trude (right) busy, while Sam and har colleagues wait for the surgery's grey mare to ITV Granada, 7.30pm. Safari:

The documentary saries telling the story of the animals at Knowsley Safari Park, near Liverpool.

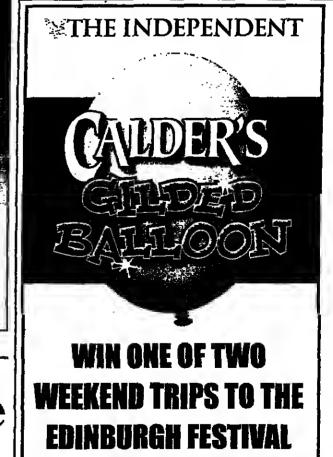
Channel 4, 8pm. Absolutely Animals: Wendy Turner visits treats the age-related problams of a 20-year-old cat and her 17-year-old offspring.

WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST Channel 4, 5.30pm. Pet Rescuers: Another roof rescue of e dog, this time ha is called Scruff.

BBC 1, 8pm. Vets in Practice: Steve treats a sick iguana and admits he knows little about this type of reptile.

Channel 4, 5.30pm. Pet Rescuers: The story of a puppy born with enormous "bat ears" is retold. FRIDAY 14 AUGUST Channel 4, 5.30pm. Pet Rescuers: Why Sky the pony

needs special attention, and Squirrel the cat has to settle Channel 5, 7.30pm. Wildlife SOS: More rescues.



By sponsoring the 1998 Fringe Festival comedy season at Calder's Gilded Balloon, Calder's Cream Ale celebrates its proud Scottish roots and also what it stands for, style, taste and unhumed special moments in good company. You could be one of two lucky winners for a weekend in Edinburgh to join those fringe dwellers who will be invading the festival from the 9th August. The prizes will include travel, two nights accomodation (Friday and Saturday) returning on Sunday evening plus a pair of tickets to three comedy shows at the Calder's Gilded Balloon. Five runners up will also receive a case of Calder's Cream Ale. All you have to do to enter this competition is to dial the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name

and full address and contact number: Q: When will fringe dwellers be invading Edinburgh? 1) August 7 2) August 8 3) August 9

CALL 0930 563 586

Calls cost 50 p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 4th August 1995. Usual





Ruch

Rescuers scrabbled at mountains

Blast wrecks six buses and college offices

BY MATTHEW BIGG in Nairobi

FIRST A loud bang and then a thick plume of smoke rose hundreds of feet into the air. After a moment of silence, glass and masonry rained down from the

This was the scene in central Nairobi yesterday as a huge car bomh aimed at the United States embassy ripped through the morning rush hour.

Two huildings caught the full force of the hlast - the US embassy and, behind it, Ufundi Co-op House, which contains a secretarial college and offices. Ufundi House collapsed,

floor hy floor, crushing its occupants. The embassy's reinforced, five-storey structure survived hut its rear-facing rooms were reduced to hlack-

Minutes later office workers, cut by glass, were streaming away from the area of the blast and a trail of blood led back to the US embassy.

In Kenya politics and civil disturbance often go hand in hand, hut the shock visible oo the faces of office workers staggering away from the hlast signalled violeoce of a different order. Six huses, gutted by the hlast, had halted on Haile Selassie Avenue. The driver of one had been thrown, dead, halfway through his shattered window.

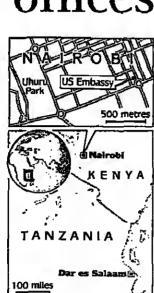
At the rear of the embassy rescue workers started to stack the remains of around 15 people who had caught the full force of the explosion.

One charred and blackened body looked more like a series of logs removed from a fire than a middle-aged female. Some lacked faces or limbs

or clothes. Others seemed to have swollen. The hodies were stacked

haphazardly on to the backs of trucks and carted away.

"I have seen eight dead



corpses [from Ufundi house]," said Amir Hassam, a rescue worker with the Aga Khan Social Welfare Board.

Eda Rubia, a management consultant was walking near the embassy when the hlast happened. "I heard a loud bang then the whole place was shaking and within a split second glass was falling on my head."

Simon Tafei, a messenger. said: "It was strange ..., a big bang and then I was lying on the floor. All around me were peo-The rescue effort began

within minutes. As US embassy personnel pulled out casualties and tried to compile a list of their missing, hundreds of volunteers swarmed over Ufundi House.

Mounted police, riot police, firemen in heat-protective suits, workers from the Red Cross, the Kenya Wildlife Service and aid agencies, husiness people and passers-by all threw themselves into the effort.

At first there was one survivor for every corpse pulled from the rubble. One US marine carried the body of an employee out of the embassy white people being pulled out of hasemeot. Minutes later a the US embassy and 25 other cheer weot up as a man was

An injured employee of the US embassy in Nairobi being helped from the wrecked huilding after the car-bomb blast yesterday morning pulled from a hole in the fourth floor of Ufundi House. He was strapped to a that no survivors were being stretcher and manhandled

down two long ladders to a Ufundi House. waiting ambulance and still had the strength to raise his head and shout. "God is great. God is great," he yelled, his arms held out in a gesture of victory after having been trapped for more than three

But the early successes could not dispel the grim fact help. arrived at the hospital in the pulled from the lower floors of

More than 500 of the casualties were taken to Nairohi's Kenyatta National Hospital, which made an urgent appeal for blood donors and volunteer medical workers. Dozens of general practitioners, retired nurses and foreign aid workers

President Daniel Arap Moi

afternooo to visit some of the

The response has been fantastic," said Julius Meme, Kenya's director of medical services. "People have been donating blood, blankets, every-

converged on the hospital to ment for cuts oo her face and arms said: "f heard a big sound and went to check what was happening at the door. But when I got there I was thrown to the floor

"f reached the street and ran with the others. f saw I was hleeding from my head, my hands, everywhere."

Scores of others in bloodsoaked clothes, their faces A woman awaiting treat- raked with lacerations, sat

treatment amid the chaos. In corridors, reception areas and in the open air, nurses and volunteers stitched and bandaged the wounded.

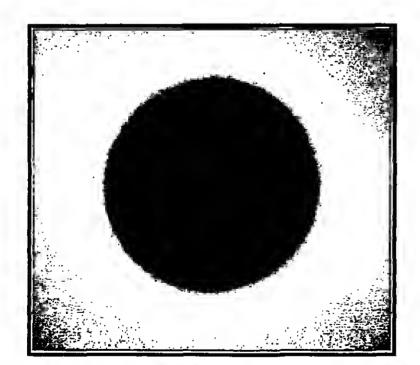
Mr Moi issued a statement condemning the attack and said the authorities would do anything possible "to bring the perpetrators of the heinous

crime to book".

dazed waiting their turn for scene of urban violence of this

In 1979 the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi was flattened by an explosion which killed several tourists. A shadowy Arab group claimed responsibility, saying it was in retaliation for Kenya allowing fsraeli troops to refuel in Nairobi during their raid on Uganda's Entebbe airport to

INDEPENDENT



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Albright flies back from Rome to deal with crisis

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, the BY MARY DEJEVSKY US Secretary of State, who in Washington flew hack to Washington urgently yesterday to hegan last autumn in address the crisis in the Bosnia, where Ms Amanaftermath of the Africa bomhings, had been in Rome on what was described as a "personal"

One, if not the main, pur-pose of that visit was to international airline schedattend today's wedding at a ules.
castle near Rome of her Th department's chief spokes-man. James Rubin, 38, and CNN's star foreign correspondent, Christiane Aman-

The wedding is the culmi-

pour was on a reporting

It has been conducted in cities around the world, depending on the pair's pro-

The timing was a calcu-lated gamble that the international scene would be quiet and neither would be be urgently required elsewhere.

Ms Alhright - who has honeymoon destination is ... nation of a romance that taken a benevolent interest

in Mr Rubin's progress since he was her youthful spokesman at the United Nations - was one of a numher of prominent guests, who included the head of the CNN television network, Ted

In the past week Washing-ton gossip columns had speculated idly about what would happen if war broke out with Iraq or some other international crisis erupted on the eve of the wedding. The bad news - for their

respective organisations - is that it will go ahead. The good news is that the



Madeleine Albright: Cut

Low security made target embassies a 'soft option'

the most secure and well protected embassies in the world. Following a series of terror-

ist attacks in the Seventies, the Americans have been upgrading their 162 embassies. The need to provide extra protection is illustrated by the fact that about a third of all attacks involving terrorists in the past year have heen against American citizens or buildings.

Until now, the overseas headquarters at the Tanzanian capital in Dar es Salaam and in Nairohi, Kenya, had not been considered likely targets.

An expert oo terrorism yesterday suggested that bombers, possibly from the Middle East, may have chosen the two compounds hecause they were considered a "soft option".

All US embassies have elaborate and extensive security arrangements ranging from bomh-proof walls and underground bunkers to hi-tech pass systems and Marine guards. During the past two decades.

THE United States has some of By JASON RENNETTO Crime Correspondent

> US embassies located in the centres of cities considered to be in high-risk countries have been moved to the outskirts, where purpose-built compounds, often resembling fortified barracks, have been constructed.

The older and less secure embassies, which include those in Kenya and Tanzania, are much harder to defend from terrorist attack because they are often surrounded by other huildings or have limited space to install security equipment.

The most secure embassies, which include those in all Middle Eastern outposts, have reinforced walls and roofs to try and prevent terrorists firing grenades and mortars into the compounds.

The walls are also designed to absorb the impact of explosions from car bombs.

An extensive system of surveillance cameras monitors all

activities around and inside

entrances. To gain access to the embassies there is a complex system of passes and barriers. No one is allowed to drive directly into the staff car-park, a measure designed to ensure that a suicide bomber is not

the compound, and armed

guards are posted on all the

A special protection area, in which staff, vital records and equipment can be shielded, is usually constructed at the heart of the embassy. These self-contained zones have extra protection from bomb blasts.

given a free run.

US embassies have five levels of security alert from one to five - from low risk to high. A protection unit at the US State Department also trains staff in

anti-terrorist procedures. These measures are in addition to the security provided by the host country, which can vary from excellent to almost

non-existent, Steel-reinforced bollards were installed in the US embassy in London in February following fears of car-bomh attacks hy Middle Eastern terrorists.

Professor Paul Wilkinson, chairman at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St Andrew's University believes the relative low-security status of Kenya and Tanzania may have made it a prime target for Middle Eastern terrorists looking for

an easy hit. "Neither Dar es Salaam nor Nairobi were considered [to be] in an area of high threat, and are therefore unlikely to have the more elaborate secur-

ity measures. The terrorists may have taken the least risk rather than going for a highly protected and

fortified building."
But he added: "American security experts and diplomats are well aware that all these physical protections are only part of the story. There's no guarantee that they will work against well co-ordinated and equipped terrorists."

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lar es

of broken and twisted concrete



US starts to line

rorism" was being liberally used in Washington. To many Americans the message from the media will have been clear, this was another episode in the decadeslong confrontation with a

shadowy international Muslim terrorist conspiracy. But the lessons of two recent incidents argued against a rush to jndgement. The Oklahoma bomb in 1995 was pinned on Islam before the dust had even settled, yet the culprits turned out to be American, white and

IN THE aftermath of yester-

day's bombs in Nairobi and

Dar es Salaam, the word "ter-

Christian. And the downing of TWA flight 800 three years ago still not explained – seems more likely to have been the result of a mechanical malfunction than some sinister Middle East cabal

There seems little doubt that yesterday's attacks were carefully co-ordinated. But the word "terrorism" is not particularly useful in understanding either motives or culpability. It implies a meaningless malevolence, a randomness of method and target that is usu-

ally belied by the evidence. Most of the attacks against US targets overseas have a logic that is clear to the attackers and usually to the attacked.

Anyone who goes to the trouble of putting together several large car bombs and detonating them at the same time in two adjacent countries has a message and wants to be understood very clearly. They see themselves as being involved in a military conflict.

The motives for attacking two American embassies in Africa may be numerous but the fact that two attacks of considerable power were launched virtually simultaneously points to a well-organised group with some experience munications and people.

The targets chosen were relatively soft. Though all US embassies mount security pre-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL in Washington

cautions against attack, it is unlikely that the embassies in Nairobi or Dar es Salaam would have erected the kind of physical barriers found in, say,

Whoever carried out the attacks did not choose to target the much better-protected US facilities around the world, such as those in Europe or the Middle East.

It is possible, but unlikely, that the choice of target was dictated by a desire to strike back against US policy in the region itself. The US is regarded in Africa as having played a key role in the conflicts in Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire, and both Tanzania and Kenya house refugees and expatriates from these countries. But there is no indication that there is any organised group with the intention or capability for this kind

More likely is that the at-tacks reflect a desire to strike back against the US for its policy elsewhere. The attacks coincided with another confrontation with Iraq over UN monitoring of its weapons of

mass destruction, but there has been no indication that Iraq has attempted anything like an attack on US facilities. US relations with Iran - to which the US government would usually point the finger after an episode like this - are relatively warm. None of this means that the

US does not have enemies, of course. The State Department pointed to two recent warnings, both of which threatened action against US targets overseas. Earlier this week, an Egyptian group calling itself Jihad threatened to retaliate for American assistance in extraditing Islamists to Cairo from

of Jihad, is believed to be in Afghanistan with Osama Bin Laden, the radical Muslim leader who has emerged as one

of the most influential leaders of Islamic groups opposed to the US. He had told a press conference in May that American targets would be attacked, and that both civilians and the military were targets.

Mr Bin Laden is one of those who the US has accused of being involved in the June 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers US military complex near Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, Bin Laden has frequently warned America that unless it withdrew from the Gulf, be would attack

US military targets. There have been other warnings to the US this year, In February, during the last confrontation between the US and Iraq, a group calling itself the International Islamic Front warned it would strike at American targets if the US attacked

The statement was signed by Bin Laden and el-Zawahri. among others. London-based newspaper Al-Hayat said that the IIF - which also included Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups - was a newly formed alliance, welded together by Bin

At the same time, there have also been a series of bigh-profile extraditions of alleged Islamist radicals, part of a co-ordinated attack by Arab and Western governments on groups that they believe are trying to unseat and destabilise governments throughout the Middle East.

In June, Saeed Sayyed Salama, an Egyptian national who was reported to be an adviser to Mr Bin Laden, was extradited to Egypt, and Syria extradited 16 men to Algeria. These were said to follow an extradition pact between 22 Arab countries signed in April.

Though this was not directly connected to the US, there has been help from America for extraditions of alleged Islamist governments concerned -Saudi Arabia and Egypt in particular-are key US allies in the

Scores killed and hurt in Dar es Salaam bombing

BY WAMBUI CHEGE in Dar es Salaam AND NICK GORDON

A CAR bomb at the United States embassy in Tanzania turned part of Dar es Salaam's diplomatic quarter into a chaos of flame, smoke and rubble vesterday. Initial reports from an embassy spokesman said six people were killed and 58

The explosion rocked the embassy around 10.45am, destroying the entrance of the complex, setting several cars ablaze and toppling trees. The scene looked like "a

war zone", one witness said. Shocked US Marine embassy guards rushed to help evacuate the hullding and then, pistols in hand, cordoned off the area. A Tanzanian security officer at the embassy, Daniel Edson, said everyone was taken by surprise. "There was nothing unusual before the explosion," he said.

"I was in the visa section," said Amio Zara from her hos-



Smoke surrounds the US embassy in Dar es Salaam yesterday after the blast from a suspected car bomb AP

pital bed, where she was being treated for head, hand and leg injuries suffered in the hlast.

"I heard a loud bang outside and immediately felt pain in my head. I tried to run downstairs but the stairs had collapsed. I managed to get outside, I saw smoke and fallen trees before Fifteen of the wounded were aged by the explosion but no one

in either building was burt. Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa condemned the attack

kept in bospital for treatment. The French and German embassies, both nearby, were dam-

"Horrible and despicable," be said to reporters on arrival at the town of Victoria Falls in join six other African leaders for a summit on the Congo crisis.

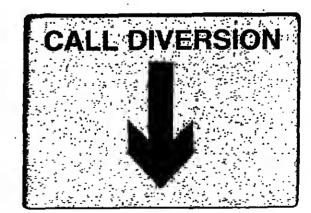
"We are going to try to unearth who is behind this ... When we do, we are going to take very stern measures indeed," he said.

"Attacks like this have never happened bere before," said Richard Mngazija, deputy editor of Tanzania's Daily Mail. "Nairobi, yes, Mogadishu, yes, Cairo, yes, but Dar? Never.

"So when the explosion went off we thought it was an earthquake. Our office is maybe eight kilometres from the embassy. We could hear and feel the blast from bere, it was that loud and powerful. But no one bere thought of bombs or terrorism. We just don't have ter-

rorists here." So unprepared is Tanzania for this sort of event that the city fire brigade could not send any of its vehicles to the scene. Instead, one fire engine from the port, two from the airport and another from the army were

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Grisly history of terror gangs who target the US

NOT SINCE Pan Am flight No 103 exploded over Lockerbie in December 1988 Hilling 270people have anti-US terrorists targeted their victims so

Yesterday's embassy bombings abruptly ended an 18month period of relative quiet which may have fulled US security services into compla-

The number of American rasualties from international perrorism last year fell to one if the lowest levels in 25 years. decline attributed by the US state department to its law enpreement agencies in tracking hose responsible. Nine states are on the AmerBY KATHERINE BUTLER

ican government's list of "terrorist sponsors", although Iran remains the "most active" backer of Islamic extremist attacks despite the more conciliatory posture of Iranian president Mohammed Khatami who came to power a year ago.

The last big incident was in June 1996 when a US military housing complex in Saudi Arabis was blown up, killing 19 American airmen and wound-

An exiled Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, described as one of the world's most dangerous terrorists, is wanted both for the Khobar Towers bar-

racks bombing and a carbombing in the Saudi capital Riyadh the previous year which killed five Americans.

Mr bin Laden, believed to be based in Afghanistan, is suspected of funding the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York in 1996. The massive explosion killed six and injured 1,000. Four people were con-victed of the WTC bombing, including the Muslim deric Umar Abd a-Rahman, an Egyptian national, and Ramzi Ahmed Yousef who had been extradit-

The last time an American embassy was targeted so directly was in September 1984

ed from Pakistan.

sumed to be from Islamic Jihad blew up the US embassy in East Beirut killing 40 and wounding dozens. Another suspected Islamic terrorist, Mir Aimal Kansi, is facing trial for the murders of two CIA officials in January 1993 at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia In March 1995 two US con-

Karachi when their shuttle bus was attacked and in February 1996 a Palestinian gunmar killed one tourist and wounded 12 others at the Empire State building in New York before shooting himself.

A note he carried said the attack was punishment for "the

Lewinsky's story takes second place

FOR THE first time in a frenet- By MARY DEJEVSKY ic two weeks, the Monica in Washington Lewinsky sex-and-lies affair

took second billing in Wasbington yesterday, following bombs in Kenya and Tanzania. For the White House, and for the US media, the pictures of raw violence and mayhem, and the resurgence of international terrorism, however shocking, brought a return to familiar news values and a respite from a subject that was not only embarrassing but politically

After Ms Lewinsky's eight hours of testimony before the grand jury on Thursday, the affair was reduced to the one essential question that politicians have feared: what is sex? According to anonymous, but consistent, leaks. Ms Lewinsky had admitted, as expected, that she had a sexual relationship with the President of the Unit-

It was, the reports said delicately, a "sexual relationship of least a dozen sexual encounters House over a period of 18 months, starting in November

This was a time when the business of government was

shut down because the Re- concerned "phone sex".

publican-majority Congress was refusing to pass the budearly-morning news of the car get bill. This meant that there was no money to pay government employees, and most were not at their desks.

At that time, as Mr Clinton testified in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit, "interns", mostly unpaid trainees. of whom the then 22-year-old Monica Lewinsky was one, were filling in for absent staff and enjoyed unusual access throughout the White House. Trainees, as many members of staff have testified, were usually kept well away from the Oval Office and the presidential

In evidence which appears to fit completely with what she told her then friend and colleague, Linda Tripp - accounts that Ms Tripp secretly taped - Ms Lewinsky apparently told the grand jury that the type of sex she had with Mr Clinton was a certain kind". She reported- such that in his view it would ly said that there had been at not constitute "sexual relations". In the tapes, she boastwith the President in the White ed to Ms Tripp of repeatedly performing oral sex on the President. She also spoke about phooe sex". and one of the books reportedly in ber possession and bought at that time

The leaks of Ms Lewinsky's account, which remains strictly confidential,- like all grand jury testimony - presented the President, White House officials and the American media with huge difficulties. Mr Clinton's difficulties were the most acute. He is on record, in his testimony in the Paula Jones case, and on television, as denying that he had a sexual affair with

If her version is credible, and the prevailing view is that it is, Mr Clinton's televised denial, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky", is in his terms correct. In that case, he has not lied outright to the American people. His sworn denial in the

Ms Lewinsky.

Paula Jones case is more problematic. The court in that case defined exactly what it meant contact with the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person with an intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person; 2. contact between any part of the person's body or an object and the genitals or anus of another person; or 3, contact between the genitals or anus of the person and any part of an-

other person's body.

"Contact", the definition went of the judicial system. on for good measure, "means intenbonal touching, either di- White House was that Ms



by sexual relations. It reads: *1. President Bill Clinton at the White House yesterday; he condemned the US embassy bombings as 'abhorrent'

Rick Wilking/Reuters

such contact did take place, Mr implicate the President in a Clinton could be open to a perjury charge. The gravity of such a charge, some legal experts have suggested, is less if it relates to evidence in a civil case than in a criminal case, but others disagree, arguing that perjury is perjury, and the basis

The consolation for the

rectly or through clothing". If Lewinsky did not, apparently, cover-up. They discussed ways to conceal their affair, she said, but he did not tell her to lie about it under oath. That would seem to absolve Mr Clinton from a charge of "suborning perjury".

On Thursday night, as details of Ms Lewinsky's testimony seeped out, the centrality of the "what is sex?" question was already putting the White House

tions in a quandary. The White House was simply silent; a silence that was successfully replaced yesterday in expressions of horror and regret over the ca-

sualties in Africa. For the media, it was another matter. Earlier in the week, network news organisations had adopted different solutions about bow to treat Ms Lewinsky's reportedly "semen-

stained" dress to make for family-friendly viewing. A dress with "physical evidence of a sexual relationship" was one favoured formulation; "stained with bodily fluids", or "DNA"

A leaked and unconfirmed report that FBI tests had proved not only the presence of "DNA", but also a "match", was the subject of an internal memo at NBC news that kept

that aspect off the air. For almost all US news outlets, bowever, a young woman's sworn testimony that she had repeated sexual encounters with the President of the United States at the White House, was strong and risky material that only the Fox news channel

chose to discuss in any detail. For the first time in days, the stand-off with Iraq made its way

Rwanda threatens Congo on eve of talks to discuss border conflict

HOURS BEFORE a summit in- By PAT REBER cluding Congo President Laurent Kabila, Rwanda's leader try would "hit back" if neighbouring Congo attacked its

President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda and Mr Ka- Tutsi-dominated Rwanda of inbila arrived in Zimbabwe for a vading Congo to create a "Tutsi

yesterday threatened his coun-seven regional beads of state to deal with the conflict in the former Zaire, now called the Republic of Congo.

Mr Kabila has accused

Rwanda and the Congolese Tutsi fighters, called Banyamulenge, backed Mr Kabila last year on his way to toppling dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. but bave since grown disaffected.

The resurgence of conflict in Congo, and the prospect of renewed civil war in neighbourpeared to be ready to carry out

take the conflict to Rwanda. regional leaders. The fighting appears to threaten the spirit of peace that rose after apartheid's end in South Africa in 1994. As ouster of the corrupt Mobutu, Mr Kabila raised bopes for Congo's future. And after 20 years of civil war, Angola's warring factions had ap-

Lusaka, Zambia, on his way to Victoria Falls, Mr Bizimungu demanded that Mr Kabila justify his allegation that Rwanda was involved in the fighting.

"I understand that [Kabila] has declared war by arming 10 million people, so if we are provoked of course we will hit back," Mr Bizimungu said.

Mr Kabila to explain the current situation in his country and how the region could help.

Earlier yesterday, the Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, ruled out military confrontation as a solution to the

conflict in Congo. Mr Mugabe said be "hopes

Victoria Falls summit would ask and cause political turmoil to the whole of the Southern African region and scare away investors".

The President added that he was confident the conflict would be resolved by the leaders, who planned to meet all day

Presidents Ben Mkapa of whether he had been invited.

Namibia and Frederick Chiluba of Zambia also arrived yesterday.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni was also due to

Noticeably absent was the South African President, Nelson Mandela. It was not clear



Stoic watchmen 'live or die' with Yangtze

BY TERESA POOLE at Wujin dyke, China

DRIVING NORTH along the top of the Wujin Dyke towards the city of Wuhan, the waters of the swollen Yangtze lapped greedily at what could be seen of the muddy left-hand bank. Much lower on the other side, at the bottom of the grassy righthand flank of the dyke, were the front-line anb-flood look-outs. Every 120 feet or so, mile

after mile, a man on a chair sits under an umbrella, facing the dyke, watching for leaks.
"We sit and watch in case

some water comes through," said a 37-year-old farmer, Xu Guanxin, working a 12-hour shift. In the 38C sunshine, it seemed strangely peaceful, perhaps because of the large number of umbrellas sporting

"To live or die with the dykes," said one of the banners long the embankment. Did Mr Xu not feel nervous with the beight of the Yangtze more than 20 feet above him just over the other side of the dyke? "Generally we are not afraid." he said. "So far it is okay."

With the middle reaches of the Yangtze in Hubei province notching up new height records yesterday, the flood fight is increasingly becoming a matter of life and death. The flood season's fourth crest is due to reach Wuhan this weekend.

About 120 miles upstream from Wuhan, near Shashi city, a dyke collapsed early yesterday, flooding about 50,000 people out of their bomes, according to Hubei radio. A further five small dykes in the region were destroyed on purpose in order to relieve pressure on the main river

Water levels at Shashi rose so high that a massive evacuation of more than 300,000 people by last night was separately under way as China's central government pondered whether



Residents of Jiujiang city fleeing yesterday after flood defences collapsed Reuters a major dyke today to divert the

rising floodwaters from the most vulnerable parts of the Jingjiang section of the Yangtze river embankment.

Details of the collapsing dykes remain difficult to come by. On the Wujin dyke yesterday, one taxi was bringing a family of four from Paizhou, the site of last Saturday's dyke collapse.
The Chinese government said
last week just 13 people had
died in the bracch. Lao Yimin, a 52-year-old retired man, who lost his house in Paizhou, said: "Soldiers were going towards the dyke. The water just washed them away. I think maybe 300 to 400 were dead in the villages. As for soldiers, possibly more." He said he knew villagers who had died.

In the villages and towns along the Wujin Dyke, it is impossible to tell rumour from reality. "The old and the kids could not escape quickly enough," said one man. "Paizhou could not manage all the cremations so some of the corpses were sent to another cremation place," said another. It does seem to be fact that some TV footage sbot in Paizhou by the local channel was deemed too awful to show.

About 12 miles north of Paizhou, the residents of Jinshuijia were getting on with life as best they could. Along the main street, life seemed almost normal until one gazed out at the vast lake which the Yangtze had become at this point. Wang Li. 32, pointed to the roof of her house, the few rows of red tiles being all one could see. "I am living in a ternporary home," she said. A five-minute journey by

rowing boat brought one to a small sandbank sticking out from the water, about 20ft by 15ft. For more than a month two families have been camping on this mound, their makeshift beds and cooking pots protected from sun and rain by a poorty mounted piece of plastic awning. A group of chickens can about on the small island. "It is uncomfortable and inconvenient but we have to manage it," she said.

Many of Ms Wang's family belongings were still in the submerged bouse. "When the

water came higher and higher any more. We left the things that were durable in the water and moved the clothes," said Ms Wang Next door to her two-storey homes are half submerged so that boats now pull up at first floor balconies.

Further towards Wuhan was the town of Jinkou. At one point here, the Yangtze level sits just 12 inches below the top of a new wall of sandbags. A small stream of water seeped up through the road Mr Xia. 30. was manning the watch post by this vulnerable section. "The water is still continuing to rise. The crest should come on Saturday," he said Will it overflow?
"No," be promised. He has been watching this section since it was built three weeks

In Wuhan, a city of 7 million about 20 miles up the dyke, a plaque in the river marks the high point of floods of 1954. Just 18 inches lower the water level

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The Anglo-Saxon twins part company

THE CBf survey, which was published last week confirms that the UK has now embarked on a familiar end of cycle experience. The virtuous circle of the last few years which has involved rising GDP growth, capital inflows, higher

equity prices, a rising exchange rate and subdued domestic inflation has clearly come to an end. Base rates should now have peaked, and the Bank may soon need to contemplate cuts as the economy

This disappointing awakening, following several years of misplaced optimism about the underlying behaviour of the economy, immediately raises the far more significant ques tion for the world economy of whether the US might be about to suffer a similar disenchantment. Several points of comparison are rel-

First, there has been surprisingly little evidence that the underlying supply side behaviour of the US economy has been superior to that of the UK during the 1990s. Although the growth in productivity in the manufacturing sector has been much higher in the US over the past three years - which is very unusual - this is probably because the growth in both UK manufacturing in the UK in recent years. The output and productivity has been severely understated by the official British statisticians. For the economy as a whole, which is obviously more important than the manufacturing sector, there has been no sign extent explain the superior pro-



There has been greater fiscal and monetary tightening in UK, and a rising real exchange rate

productivity performance between Essentially, both have recorded overall productivity growth of around 1.5 per cent per annum since 1995. There is no sign here of

an underlying supply-side miracle

in either economy. Second, there is the question of the growth rate in real fixed investment, which has been very substantially higher in the US than cumulative growth rate in real fixed investment in the US over the past four years has been almost 40 per cent, as compared to under 20 per cent in the UK. This may to some

there are a couple of offsetting cyclical upswing than the UK econpoints to bear in mind.

First, the path for real investment in the UK has probably been underestimated as a result of an overstatement in the price deflator for investment goods in Britain.

Second, and somewhat surprisingly, there is no evidence from the behaviour of capacity utilisation that the UK manufacturing sector has been operating at higher levels of capacity than its American counterpart, In fact, both US and UK manufacturing sectors have been working moderately above their normal capacity utilisation continuously over the past five years.

A third element of supply side performance concerns the structural level of unemployment, or NAIRU, in the labour market. Goldman Sachs economists estimate that the NAIRU to America may have dropped from around 7 per cent of the labour force in the late 1980s to around 5.5 per cent now. In the UK, it is more difficult to derive precise estimates for the NAIRU, but a sensible guess is that there has been a similar drop, from around 10 per cent of the labour force in the late 1980s to around 8 per cent today.

Overall, it appears therefore that there is relatively little evidence to suggest that the underlying supply side performance of the US economy has improved sharply relative to that of the UK in recent years. This, in turn, suggests that the US economy may be no better protected

manufacturing sector. However, from the adverse effects of a strong omy has been. What, then, does account for the difference between the two economies?

The main factor is that the intensity of the cyclical apswing has been greater in the UK than in the US, so that resources have been under greater strain. UK GDP relative to trend has risen from a negative output gap of around 3 per cent in 1993 to a positive output gap (allowing for likely data revisions) of perhaps 1.5-2 per cent now. Therefore the upswing in the cycle, relative to trend, has been of the order of 4.5-5 per cent of GDP.

In the US, the upswing has been less intense, with the output gap ris-ing from around ·2 per cent in 1992 to about plus 1 per cent now, making a swing of 3 per cent in total. Thus, while the current levels of the output gaps in the two countries are broadly comparable, the change in the output gap in the UK has been much the greater.
In addition, the UK unemploy-

ment rate has dropped by almost 6 percentage points in the course of the recent upswing while in the United States the decline in unemployment has been only half as large, at around 3 per cent. This rence has been clearly reflected in the behaviour of both earnings and prices. In the UK, private sector earnings have accelerated by around 3 percentage points over the last two years, while the equivalent acceleration in the US has been only

REAL FIXED INVESTMENT GROWTH % change over previous 4 years --- US

around 1 percentage point. Similarly, the underlying rate of consumer price inflation in the UK has continued to run in the region of 3 per cent over the past two years, while in the US the same measure of inflation has fallen from around 3 per cent to about 2.25 per cent over

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the same period. As inflation pressure has emerged, there has been a much greater fiscal and monetary tightening in Britain than in America, and a much larger rise in the real exchange rate. For example, the Goldman Sachs monetary conditions indicator for the UK has tight-

ened by around 400 basis points in the past two years, compared to a tightening of around 150bp in the US. Meanwhile, the fiscal impulse in Britain has swung towards tightening by around 5 per cent of GDP, as compared to a swing of only about 1.5 per cent in the US. Finally, the effective exchange rate has been much more overvalued, relative to

94

equilibrium, in Britain than in Based on these comparisons, I conclude the following. First, the un-derlying supply side behaviour of the two economies has been surprisingly similar.

to a more intense demand-led upswing than the US.

Third, this has led to greater inflation pressure in the UK, both in the labour market and in the consumer price index.

Fourth, in response to this worsening in inflation, there has been a much greater policy tightening in

Fifth, it is this clash between worsening inflation pressures and much tighter macro-economic policy which has led to the end of the cyclical upswing in Britain.

The clear implication for the US is that it may one day be subject to the same end-of-cycle problem that now faces the UK, if the US authorities make the mistake of allowing the pick-up in domestic demand to become too intense, leading eventually to the re-emer-gence of inflation pressures.

Once that happens, a familiar vicious circle can easily set in, involving tighter monetary policy, weaker equities, a reversal in the strong exchange rate, and the manifestation of inflation problems which had hitherto been disguised

by the rising exchange rate. It does not appear that the US economy is yet generating enough inflation pressure to induce this problem in the near future.

However, it is equally clear from British experience that nothing has happened in the 1990s to make this outcome impossible in the years

News Analysis: Prime Minister Obuchi is like 'a bald man trying to pull himself out of a morass by his hair'

Can Japan's old hands pull it off?

BY STEPHEN VINES

OUTSIDERS find Japanese jokes hard to appreciate. Yet even the most obtuse foreigner can understand the wags at the Tokyo stock exchange who describe the new government led by Keizo Obuchi as being like a "baid man trying to p himself out of a morass hy clutching his hair."

The task facing the new prime minister is so vast and the chances of success so low thal it is surprising that there were any contestants for the post, lel alone the three who stepped forward.

Before being installed as prime minister by a vote in the lower house, the House of Representatives (although he was rejected by the upper house), market-makers had been trumpeting the belief that Japan did not want a prime minister who was drawn from the mould of the 24 other prime ministers who have run the country since the war

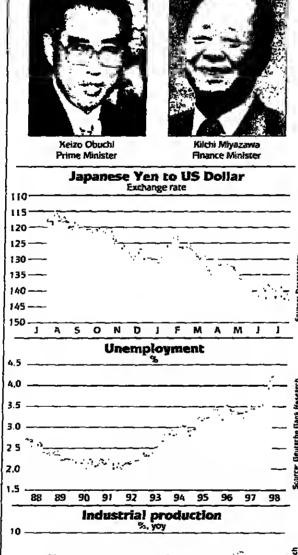
However Mr Obuchi, 61, is every bit an old-style machine politician who has risen steadily through the ranks and, in these times of economic woes, has lit-

tle economic experience. Once the new prime minis-ter was installed last Thursday these very same financial markels players were performing a turnabout, suggesting that a steady hand on the rudder was just what Japan needed, and that appointment of 78-year-old Kiichi Miyazawa as finance minister sent out a reassuring

signal Mr Miyazawa, a former prime minister, has been around so long that everyone knows him. including key American economic policymakers such as the Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve. They feet comfortable with him even though he had made it clear he was reluctant to take the job.

His disciple Koichi Kato, the outgoing secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, had already turned down the post because he aspires to the premiership and knows the pitfalls of being finance minister. Nevertbeless he will do most of the legwork for Mr Miyazawa. The the Obuchi-Miyazawa team faces the worst recession for half a century Moreover all indicators indicate that it has not bottomed out.

The outgoing government had suggested that the economy could recover and expand by 1.9 per cent in the current fiscal year. Taichi Sakaiya, the new head of the Economic Planning Agency, firmly laid such optimism to rest at the end of last week saying: "I think it's impossible", and adding, "I myself foresee a major minus".



The day after Mr Obuchi took office, new unemployment figures recorded a post-war high of 4.3 per cent, which is extremely high by Japanese standards. A report from the Dai Ichi Research and Management Institute, bowever, says that the true figure is 10-13.5 per cent if companies' in-house unemployment is taken into

to 100,000hn yen (£435 million).

led companies with growth

Hovering over the economic gloom is a mountain of bad debts pulling the banking sector to its knees. Officially bad debt is estimated to have reached 700bn yen, a recently revised figure up from the previous estimate of 550bn yen. However private sector estimates put the figure at closer

To remedy the bad debt problem, banks are trying to call in bad or dubious loans, causing a ripple effect of corporate failures and redundancies. At a time of recession the banks are cutting lending. thus making increased borrowing hard for even export-

Meanwhile, the yen keeps depreciating, in part because Japanese interest rates at are record lows, and more generally because confidence in the once mighty yen has eva-

The Japanese currency suffered another sharp fall last Friday sliding to under 144 yen to the US dollar, after Mr Miyazawa made it clear that be would

not be intervening in the markets to support the currency. The market is cleverer than the government and things can be left to the market," he said. So what is the new team's strategy for getting out of this mess? "The most effective way is to throw money at Miyazawa. This is precisely

the strategy being urged on the Japanese by the United States and practically everyone else worried that Japan will pull down the rest of the global economy. In concrete terms it means that the government will try to implement a six trillion yen (£26bn) tax cut. Government

spending is set to rise sharply

with a further £44bn being

thrown into the kitty, which in turn will add to domestic con-Old ideas about reducing the budget deficit have been thrown out of the window and the government now accepts that it will need to issue deficitcovering bonds to finance this expenditure and the tax cutting

However, an increasing flow of government paper poses the risk of further lowering Japanese credit ratings, which in turn means that even government debt would carry very high rates of interest.

The state of the commercial banking sector is so weak that even government optimists are not planning a solution.

The strategy is simply. To try to achieve a soft landing by creating officially sponsored "bridge banks" which will protect depositors of banks in difficulties. Some 266 billion yen (£1.16bn) is being set aside less than a third of the bad debt total, if more pessimistic estimates of that total are used.

The solutions proposed by the new government do not inspire much confidence. Some believe far more brutal measures are required which involve allowing more banks and other financial institutions to close alongside companies who cannot repay their debts.

This sbort, sharp shock treatment is seen as preferable to a drawn-out period of economic pain, holding out the bope of recovery in a shorter

Japanese government and corporate culture makes it hard to accept the short, sharp shock solution. Indeed it is hard to see bow this could be implemented. Besides which, mass closures of companies and a sharp reduction in the size of the financial sector may knock away some of the strong foundations which created the Japanese economic miracle - a miracle now only dimly remembered.

BT blocks floating off Cellnet

RRITISH TELECOM has vetoed By PETER THAL LARSEN plans by Securicon the security services group, to float off its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone operator, Robert Brace, BT's finance director. said last week that the telecom giant - which owns the remaining 60 per cent of Cell-

net - would oppose any at-tempt by Securicor to obtain a stock market listing for Cellnet. The move is certain to revive speculation that BT is gearing up to take full control of Celloet. BT tried to buy out Securicor's 40 per cent shareholding in 1995, but the deal was blocked

by the Department of Trade and

Industry. However, observers

have long assumed that the cur-

rent government would not

block the deal. BT is also due to receive a

\$7bn (£4bn) cash payment in return for its 20 per cent stake in MCL the US telecom giant whose merger with Worldcom is due to be cleared later this month

Although the group has asked shareholders for permission to buy back 10 per cent of its shares, Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, has hinted that the group has better uses for the cash. The \$10bn (£6bn) joint venture with AT&T. unveiled last week, does not require BT to invest any cash.

Securicor had been exploring the possibility of a stock market listing as a way of realising the value of its investment in the group.

Shares in Orange and Voda-fone - the two listed mobile phone operators - have soared this year and demand for Cellnet shares would be strong.

By floating its 40 per cent stake Securicor - which is increasingly keen to find an exit from Celinet – would be able to return the cash to its share-

Analysts calculate that, on a similar valuation to Orange, Cellnet is worth more than 27bn, valuing Securicor's stake at almost £3bn.

BT was thought to have agreed a price of £1.2bn for the stake when the deal was blocked.

Securicor now believes BT would have to offer twice as much to clinch a deal, but observers reckon BT will not pay more than £2bn. This may explain why BT opposed the flota-

Moreover, BT is not believed to be in any burry to do a deal. The group has always maintained it would like to own all of Cellnet, if the government would allow it, to fully integrate the mobile operator into its business, offering subscribers a single bill for all their mobile and fixed-line calls.

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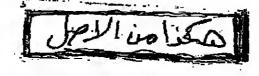
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Few signs of slowdown in US

THERE ARE few signs of a widespread economic slowdown in the US. and the inflation outlook remains relatively benign, according to official figures out yesterday. The US unemployment rate held steady 8t 4.5 per cent in July, and employers reported a small but positive net gain in jobs of

The jobs figures were depressed by the General Motors strike, analysts said, and August's numbers are expected to show a marked increased in labour demand.

Despite the continued growth in payroll numbers, there were few signs of accelerating wage inflation. Manufacturing hourly earnings, which were depressed by the General Motors strike, fell by 0.3 per cent. Wall Street received the labour market data well, and analysts said the numbers should belp persuade the US Federal Reserve to

£15m profit from housebuilder sale



TONY R PIDGLEY (left) is set to pocket £15m from the sale of his company to Berkeley group, the housebuilder founded and headed by his father, Tony W Pidgley. The 29-year-old eotrepreneur yesterday announced the sale of his laxury housebuilder Thiristone to Berkeley for £4m in cash and £11m io Berkeley shares.

Mr Pidgley junior will also become managing director of Berkeley's Home Counties subsidiary and will sit on the board alongside bis father, who is group managing director. The move puts him in pole position to succeed Mr Pidgley senior when he decides to step down.

Nokia takes stake in Filtronic

FILTRONIC YESTERDAY unveiled a deal which will see Nokia, the Finnish mobile phone giant, take a 7.5 per cent sbareholding in the electronics group. Filtronic is buying LK-Products, a supplier of components for mobile phone base stations and handsets, from Nokia in return for

FIM350 (£39.8m) in cash and 4 million Filtronic shares. John Samuel, Filtronic's finance director, said the deal gave the group a much closer relationship with Nokia, one of its major customers. Shares in Filtronic, which is expected to carry out a placing and open offer of about 10 per cent of its equity to fund the deal, jumped 98.5p to

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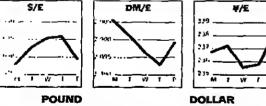
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Austria (schillings)	19.73	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1671
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Denmark (krone)	10.78	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9568
Finland (markka)	8.5918	Singapore (S)	2.6948
France (francs)	9.4127	Spain (pesetas)	237.97
Germany (marks)	2.8174	South Africa (rands)	9.5555
Greece (drathma)	465.23	Sweden (krone)	12.70
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Sir Ernest Harrison: Still prefers Telecom float

young industry and a lot of chief executives are in well-paid jobs." His comments were made as Racal plunged to a pre-tax loss of £207m in the year to March after disposing of its Data Communications division for less than expected. Shares in Racal terviewed many people, but not fell by 10p to 383.5p as the group sold the division to Plat-

ital group, for \$47.5m (£29m). Racal will only receive \$12.5m up froot, with the remainder linked to the division's sales over the next 10 years.

Sir Ernest said the figure

was lower than expected be-

cause Racal bad decided to

Bids invited as Racal

Telecom float shelved

keep its Security and Payments division after the bids it received were oot high enough. Although Racal has never set a date for the flotation of Racal Telecom. the City had expected the business to be spun off in the summer of 1999. However the absence of a chief ex-

ecutive means a flotation now

looks unlikely before 2000. Observers said Racal Telecom would also have to produce better revenue growth if it was to attract a high valuation. In the year to March the divisioo reported sales growth of just 4 per cent, while profits fell to £38.3m from £43.7m as margins inum Equity, a US venture cap- oo key data communications

cootracts for the National Lottery and Railtrack were squeezed.

However, analysts said the delay meant Racal might become a bid target. Brian Newman, an analyst at the stockbrokers, Heodersoo Crosthwaite, said the sale of Data Communications had "removed the poison pill from Racal". He suggested that defence groups such as GEC and British Aerospace might be willing to buy Racal for its defeoce electronics interests before selling off Racal Telecom themselves. Heoderson

vision's value at about £900m. Meanwhile, Racal said it was in discussions with World-Com about selling some of its fibre-optic cable to the US telecoms giant.

Crosthwaite estimates the di-

WorldCom, which receotly announced the completion of a gether several major cities, is keen to extend its network in the UK. Buying unused "dark fibre" from Racal Telecom would be cheaper than laying the cables itself.

However, David Elsbury, Racal's chief executive, said there was oo suggestion that WorldCom was interested in buying Racal Telecom.

Mr Elsbury said the division would require capital speoding of about £150m over the next two years to upgrade certain parts of its oetwork and extend its reach into major cities. That spending will take Racal's investment in the network to £500m since it bought British Rail's telecoms division for £132.8m three years ago.

The division is part of the Citylink consortium, which recently won the £1bn cootract to renew the radio communications system used by London European network linking to-Uoderground.

opens for bus maker Dennis

Bid war

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

DENNIS. Britain's largest hus. builder, was at a centre of a fierce bid battle yesterday after it emerged that Mayflower, the car parts maker, had trumped an offer from rival Henlys.

In a statement to the Stock Exchange, Mayflower confirmed that it was in talks with the Dennis board over a £455m cash offer for the company. The 450p-a-share hid is a 15 per cent premium on Dennis's closing price on Thursday and it is more than double the £t90.2m in shares offered earlier this week by Henlys, the country's second-largest bus maker.

Analysts said that, unless Henlys raised its offer it was certain to lose the battle for Coveotry-based Dennis. They said Mayflower's move put pressure on Henlys to come back with a counter-offer as early as next week, or drop out.

The Dennis board said it noted Mayflower's "unsolicited interest in making an offer.
The statement added that the Dennis directors were "considering this approach" and advised shareholders "to take no actioo" in the meantime.

Henly's refused to comment, but sources close to the company said that the £525m merger between the two bus makers had received a favourable reception from institutions. They added that Dennis and Henlys also shared a number of institutional shareholders.

The prospect of a Mayflower bid sent Dennis shares soaring by 16 per cent to close at 456p. above the car part maker's offer price. Henlys shares tumbled 61p to 529p. Maytlower shares lost 2p to 195p.

Sources close to Mayflower said the acquisition of Dennis would bolster Mayflower's donble-decker bus division, Walter Alexander. The unit, bought in profits of £7.1m last year on sales of £84.5in.

Last year Mayflower launched a bid for engineering group Vickers, twice its size. in an attempt to win cootrol of Rolls-Royce. The attempt was abandoned after the German car maker BMW threatened to cut off engine supplies to RR if Mayflower won.

Bulmer buys US cider firm HP BULMER, makers of Strongbow and Woodpecker ciders, yesterday annoooced a major expansion in the US with the \$14.4m (£8.7m) cash acquisition of Green Mountain Cidery, writes Francesco Green Mountain, of Vermoot, cootrols 17 per cent of the US cider market through

Mike Hughes. Bulmer's chief executive, said the purchase "creates a step change in Bulmer's presence in the fast-growing" US market. The many said it would invest in Green Monatain's operations, which would result

UK cider makers are finding themselves squeezed by the competition from alcopops and cheap imported lagers.

in a "marginal dilutioo" to its

earnings in the next two

years. Last year Green Moun-

taio reported a profit of

\$134,000 oo turnover of \$7.8m.

its Woodchuck brand. Bulmer already has a 9 per ceot slice

of cider sales in the US.

By PETER THAL LARSEN

RACAL, the electronics group.

is willing to coosider offers for

its telecoms arm after failing to

find a chief executive to bead up

chairman, yesterday said that the flotation of Racal Telecom

remained his "preferred op-

tion". However he added that

the group was willing to enter-

proach us with a proposal that reflected the value of the busi-

oess we would naturally coo-

Sir Ernest admitted that the

group had struggled to find a suitable chief executive to lead

Racal Telecom through a flota-

tion. "We have been searching

since last December and have in-

yet found someone of the high-

est calibre," he said. "This is a

"If a third party was to ap-

tain offers for the unit.

sider it." be said.

Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal's

the division.



UK cider makers are losing sales to rival products such as cheap imported lagers and alcopop drinks

Unilever's £121m hit

UNILEVER, the Persil-to-Vase- By Francesco Guerrera line conglomerate, yesterday became the latest multinational to warn that Asia's economic woes will constrain profit growth in the next few years. The company also confirmed press reports that it would spend £300m on year 2000 com-

puter compliance. The Anglo-Dutch coosumer goods group said its businesses in the Asian region had felt the pinch of a slump in consumer speeding caused by the recent financial turmoil, Its Indonesian and Thai operations bad been the worst hit during the first part of the year. The compared with £3.8bn a year maker of PG Tips tea and Walt's ice-creams said Asia's problems were starting to spill over to other emerging economies.

difficulties in East Asian economies remain a concern in the medium term and we bave also seeo signa of economic slowdown in a number of countries in other developing and emerging markets. Our results ... will cootinue to be influenced by the economic diffi-

culties in East Asia." Mr FitzGerald's comments came as Unilever posted a 79 per ceot drop in pre-tax profits in the second quarter to £722m. In the first half, Unilever profits fell 62 per cent to £1.48bo

ago. City analysts said the comparison with 1997 was misleading as tast year's figures included a £2bn-plus gain.from Niall FitzGerald, the chairthe sale of Unilever's specialiman of Unilever, said: "The ty chemicals business to ICI.

Stripping out the ICI deal, proflts in the second quarter fell 3

This was still below the Square Mile's expectations and triggered a slide in the share price. The stock lost as much as 7.5 per cent soon after the announcement before rallying to close down 4.5p at 585.5p. The company said that the

Asian crisis had cut profits by £52m, while the strong pound sliced a further £69m from the the figures But the biggest impact came

from a £110m jump in marketing spending to launch Persil detergeot tablets in Europe and North America and Thermasilk shampoo in the US.

Analysts said that underlying growth, stripped of the Asian and sterling effects, remained

WorldCom to take from Asia and pound \$7bn merger charge

WORLDCOM, the US telecoms By PETER THAL LARSEN giant, is to take an exceptional charge of between \$6bn and \$7bo following its \$37bo (£23bn) acquisition of MCI, the long-distance telecoms operator.

WorldCom has also warned that further charges are to

The company unveiled the exceptional item, which is believed to be one of the largest ever taken by a company, in filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday evening.

The charge is expected to be related to MCI's research and development projects which are already in progress.

WorldCom said it was conducting a valuation study of MCI assets in order to allocate a price to oet assets being acquired in the deal.

Meanwhile, WorldCom said

integrate MCI into its own operations - a move that was expected to lead to further charges in relation to "exit and restructuring costs". However, WorldCom refused

it was also drawing up plans to

to specify or indicate the size of the additional charge other than to say that it "may be significant" and that it would be written off against profits wheo it was incurred.

The filings did not ruffle US investors, who pushed World-Com shares up 44 ceots to \$53.06 yesterday. The shares have risen by more than 75 per ceot since the beginning of the

The WorldCom-MCI merger, which was announced last year

is expected finally to be completed towards the eod of this month when it receives the stamp of approval from US telecoms regulators. The European Commissiou

and the US Department of Jus-

tice have already given the

deal the green light after MCI agreed to sell its Internet assets to Cable & Wireless, the UK group, for £1.75bo. WorldCom has negotiated a \$12bn credit line as part of its

financial restructuring following the merger and Internet sale deals. On Thursday, the group launched a \$6.1to bond issue, the largest ever by a corporation. WorldCom is due to pay \$7bo

in cash to British Telecom in return for the 20 per cent shareholding the UK group bolds in

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

A STRONG afternoon rally ended a four-day losing run. In often brisk trading Footsie achieved an 86.3points gain to 5.680, with New York, showing its relief over payroll figures, providing most of the encouragement. Mid cap shares made less impressive progress and

Compass, the contract caterer hit by a downgrading on Thursday. led the Footsie charge with a 50.5p recovery to 588.5p. Shire Pharmaceubcais, savaged after a fire threatened to disrupt operations, rallied 63p to 356.5p.

NEW YORK

A BENIGN US employment report lured buyers out oo Wall Street vesterday, sending stocks sharply higher at midday. After the data, the market extended a teotative recovery from Tuesday's drubbing wheo the Dow industrials slid 299 points.

one of the major forces pushing the market higher. By 6pm BST the blue chip Dow Jones Industrials was up 86.25 at 8663.4. The broader Russell 2000 iodex of smaller stocks chalked up a rise

of almost 3 per ceot.

Technical factors were seen as

TOKYO

changed after Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi provided no surprises in his first policy speech to parliament. The Nikkei dropped 47.05 points, or 0.30 per ceot, to 15,829.17. That brought its loss for the week to 549.8 points or 3.36 per cent. The broader Topix index dropped

JAPAN'S NIKKEI index was little

1.79 points, or 0.15 per cent, to 1,225.30. The Japanese currency fell as low as 145.20 to the dollar, down from 144.38 in New York trading yesterday, as traders remained sceptical about Mr Obuchi's prescription for Japan's ills.

PARIS

THE PARIS stock index closed above 4,000 for the first time since Tuesday's 204-point swing, but brokers said investor caution could be highlighted following bomb blasts on US embassies io Africa.

The hlue-chip CAC-40 index closed up 73.29 points, or 1.85 per cent at 4,041,88.

The market was oervous following a slide in Houg Kong but rose steadily io the afternoon as the Dow climbed. On the week, the French market was down 3.24 per ceot.

GERMANY

GERMAN SHARES rose yesterday with the key DAX index up 63.58 at 5,581.22 and the Xetra DAX ending at 5,598.32, up 70.20. Traders said that despite the rise, sentiment has turned much more nervous and uncertain, with good corporate oews having relatively little impact on the market

The main exception was Daimler-Benz, which rose strongly following the release of details of its merger with Chrysler. Daimler said that both car groups expected \$1.4bn in benefits from the mergerin the first year.

BA begins to feel the summer heat

AS SUMMER sales go, the decision by British Airways to sell off 2 million tickets at bargain basement prices this weekend takes some beating. To put the offer into perspective, that is equal to 6 per cent of its annual passenger traffic. It is, of course, not an act of complete philanthropy towards the travelling publie. Many of the seats on offer would otherwise have remained empty, others are on routes where business traffic has dried up for the summer. The promotion will also act as a loss-leader, tempting some passengers into travel agents and ticket shops where they will end up paying the full-fare. Then there is the sheer public relations value of the exercise, which is considerable.

This is also much more than just a summer clearance sale sparked, BA would have us believe, by the football factor. The World Cup may have kept lots of us glued to the television when we could otherwise have been booking holidays. But it cannot explain why BA suddenly has two million seats to sell.

A better explanation is that BA is beginning to feel the heat. For all its



MICHAEL **HARRISON**

protestations about how competitive airport taxes) and the sky's the limit. It the airline market has become, the fact remains that BA enjoys an extraordinarily dominant position, if not a monopoly. It accounts for nearly 40 per cent of all the take-off and landing slots at Heatbrow, the world's busiest international airport, a position built up over years of public ownership and bequeathed to straretrolders on priv-

Like all monopolists, BA instinctively

it faces competition, the instinct is to crush the opposition with low-priced fares, particularly if their pockets are not as deep as BA's.

We are witnessing something of that this weekend. Virtually all the cut-price deals are on domestic and European routes, where BA faces competition from the low cost operators such as Debonair, easyJet and Ryanair. Ask for two-thirds off the standard Heathrow-New York air fare this weekend and you will be politely shown the door. Ask for a £79 return fare to Nice (including just so happens that BA competes with three low-cost operators on that route. It is a similar story on routes to Scandinavia. Once the most expensive £500m. air corridors in the world, they have been turought within reach of most pockets by the likes of Ryanair, Thanks to BA you will be able to fly to any of the four capital cities for £89 between now and

But that's enough free advertising for

wherever it can. Where it cannot because at Heathrow and thousands more at Gatwick and regional bubs like Manchester and Birmingham. It is perfectly entitled to use them however sees fit.

But the argument raging right now between the competition authorities in Brussels and London is whether it should also be allowed to sell them. The European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, says no. The Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridge-man, says yes. The stand-off could cause yet further delay to the BA-American Airlines alliance since approval for the deal relies on the two airlines relinquishing 267 weekly slots. The difference between whether they are surrendered for free or sold could be as much as

There is already a grey market in slots at Heathrow and other capacity Heathrow routes in the late 1980s. The question of who owns airport slots

constrained airports. American Airlines and United Airlines recognised as much when they hought TWA and Pan Am's

which regulates airlines. Do they, in fact, belong to anyone?

Mr Van Miert thinks not, which is why he believes BA should surrender them to new entrants without compensation. Mr Bridgeman thinks possession is nine-tenths of the law and that the alliance should be able to realise the value of those slots when they are sold, just as companies do when they are required to dispose of assets in return for approval to merge. The OFT's argument goes further, claiming that the sale of slots is the most competitive way of allocating them since they would go the airline that would make the best use of

What this argument tends to obscure is that BA never really paid for the slots in the first place, unlike other assets such as aircraft or engineering workshops. Second, there is a huge economic benefit

feasts on its customers whenever and one day, BA holds over 3,000 weekly slots is a murky one. Under the system of to BA and American of being allowed to grandfather rights, airlines have the right merge their transatlantic services. The to the use of slots allocated to them over two airlines have been careful never to the years. But does that also mean they quantify what that is in public. But own them? Or do they belong to the when Lufthansa and United Airlines airport or the Civil Aviation Authority, got together in a similar alliance, they said it was worth the equivalent of one extra jumbo jet load of passengers a day.

BA and American have been waiting for approval of their merger for more than two years now and probably calculate they have little to lose by exploring any avenue open to them. If they think the OFT's view has a chance of prevailing over that of Brussels, then why not wait a little longer?

But the whole bureaucractic process of regulatory approval is threatening to result in ossification. BA is delaying an announcement about whether a 22bn jet order will go to Airbus or Boeing in the hope that it can lever a better deal out of Brussels. In the meantime, rival alliances go from strength to strength while BA's strategy remains fuzzy and its share price becalmed. At some point, BA's chief executive, Bott Ayling, has to decide where his bottom line lies.

A&L profits from lending share boost

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER bas BY ANDREW VERITY bucked a gloomy trend among converted tuilding societies by boosting its share of the mortgage market since becoming a bank.

The bank's share of net lendag rose ty nearly a quarter from 4.5 to 5.5 per cent in the first half of the year. The hulding society became a bank in

The rise was in stark contrast to the Woolwich and Halifax, both suffering the effects of torrowers redeeming mortgages after conversion. Both have seen their shares of the market shrink to around a third of their normal size.

A&L's success in boosting market share appears to support a theory that smaller building societies have had greater success in converting to banks than their larger rivals.

Mutual

raise

rates

of mutuality:

£10 a month.

BY ANDREW VERITY

societies

mortgage

MUTUAL building societies ves-

terday announced higher in-

terest rates for home owners as

they relaxed from a year-long

campaign to prove the benefits

Bradford & Bingley is boost-

ing rates by a quarter of a

point to 8.7 per cent after hold-

ing back for two months after

the last rise in base interest

from 1 September. Yorkshire

In the run-up to Nation-

wide's crucial vote last month

on whether to become a bank,

societies had promised to bold

The rises come in the mid-

their rates until 1 August.

i "le of one of the slowest months

of the year for mortgage sales.

and follow the decision not to

raise rates by the Bank of Eng-

land's Monetary Policy com-

Variable mortgages with Na-tionwide and Bradford & Bin-

gley are still significantly

cheaper than those from former

societies which have converted

to banks, most of which have

headline mortgage rates of 8.95

The building societies have

sought to maintain their com-

petitiveness in the savings mar-

ket, boosting rates on deposits

while holding them back on

nortgages.
Bradford & Bingley has cal-

culated that it returned £85m of

profits to its savers and bor-

rowers last year

mittee on Thursday.

per cent.

Richard Pvm, the finance director, said: "It is much harder for Halifax and Abbey National to defend a 20 or 15 per cent share than it is for us. It is easier to attack from a lower number.

"What we did was to get ourselves in order. We organised our sales effort much better and were more consistent in our approach to the market. It was a better sales effort."

A&L followed a similar pattern to Northern Rock, another of the smaller converted societies, in capturing business from the higger lenders.

The bank moved beavily into fixed-interest mortgages, once a small fraction of its loan portfolio. In the first half of 1998, fixed-interest loans made up 66 per cent of its loans extended.

Mr Pym said the charge levelled against Northern Rock that it may have sacrificed profitability for hulk sales of cutprice mortgages - did not apply to A&L. "We stick to minimum profit criteria for each particular product," he said.

Headline profits jumped by 29 per cent to £230m. Underlying profits, excluding £28m of conversion costs last year, showed a more modest 12 per cent rise. The shares rose by 19p to close at 868p.

Interest income was boosted by higher interest rates and a big increase in unsecured lending through the bank's personal finance arm, which extends small-ticket personal loans to customers.

Unlike Woolwich or Halifax, Alliance & Leicester is resisting pressure from the City to use its spare capital of £700m for a share buyback programme. Instead, the money is being held back for possible ac-

Mr Pym said A&L was currently "very underleveraged" and would seek acquisitions only if they allowed new products to be introduced to A&L customers. "What we are interested in is either increasing our customer base or hringing additional products to our customer base."

In what was a veiled swipe at rival mortgage banks, be added: "The thing we are not interested in is acquisitions overseas. The real reason UK banks go overseas is boredom. The whole history of it is that they get absolutely suckered by the locals, just the same as continental banks coming to the UK. You end up as lender of last resort to the natives."

Investment trust offer extended

ABERDEEN PREFERRED Income, the investment trust engaged in a hostile bid to manage the £600m Scottish National Investment Trust, yesterday extended its offer to shareholders after attracting less than 15 per cent to its bid.

Abpref's offer, which involves offering a big treadline yield to investors, has captured less than 8 per cent of three classes of sharebolders - stepped preference, zero dividend preference and capital shareholders. Its offer will now be extended until 20

Winding-up rise COMPANY WINDING-UP

petitions rose by 5 per cent in the second quarter of the year, according to figures released by the Lord Chancellor's Department. It said 2,849 company windingup petitions were issued in ingland and Wales in the three months to June. compared with 2,724 in the same period last year.

Separately, NTC Research released a survey showing that labour market in July, despite signs of a UK economic slowdown. Growing skill shortages led to another sharp increase in pay, NTC said. The Bank of England recent off-spring Selfridges and the government have both expressed concern

growth of private sector pay on the outlook for inflation. Air-freight deal

about the impact of the

OCEAN GROUP, the transport and logistics company, yesterday confirmed it was buying Texas-based Skyking Freight Systems to expand its air-freight forwarding operations. Ocean said that under the terms of the acquisition there would be an initial cash payment of \$8m, a further cash payment of \$16.6m after 12 months and an earn-out arrangement based on Skyking's profits over the next five years which was presently expected to be \$10m but was subject to a

maximum of \$60m. Skyking has 14 regional offices in the US, a client base of 6,000 and reported underlying unaudited operating profits of \$2.5m in 1997 on sales of \$38m, with a net asset value of \$1.75m.

Oil glut warning

THE WORLD'S oil glut will get worse before it gets better, with a huge excess of inventories set to spill over well into next year, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. Publishing its first projections for 1999, the agency said it was expecting a modest recovery in global oil demand growth Brent crude traded at just \$12.80 a barrel yesterday, a third lower than average prices last year.

Bug costs £5bn

THE UK'S biggest companies are set to spend more than £5bn to fix potential year 2000 bugs, according to a survey published yesterday. Twothirds of companies in the FTSE 100 responded to the Reuters survey, giving an average cost of £65m. The Stock Exchange has told listed companies to state what preparations they have made for the the problem caused by the inability of some computers to cope with Hang Seng and the pressure on the date change from 1999 to 2000 - by the end of this year.

Retailers discounted as Footsie rallies

AS FOOTSIE achieved its only advance of the week retailers were again left on the shelf. Yet another profit warning - this time from Allders - did the

The nation's shopkeepers have suffered as the stock market became aware consumers were under pressure and cutting back on their spending.

A steady flow of cautious trading statements and outright profit warnings have pushed many shares to their year's low with some looking demoralised. Recent sales data has been disappointing with Indications last month was par-

ticularly unrewarding. Next, once the high flying darling of fashion, is looking decidedly threadbare. The shares fell 12.5p to 435.5p, lowest for more than two years, before cutting the fall to 3p. They were riding at an 835p peak before a profit warning hit in March.

Others under pressure included WH Smith, off 20.5p to 492p: Tie Rack 5p to 41.5p and poor old MFI, the furniture chain, now down to 50p against 209p high. Tie Rack, which tied up a profit warning last month, topped 200p last year. Sears managed to find another low, off 8.5p to 212p and

BOOKER, the bard-pressed cash and carry group, is in talks which could lead to a

After its shares had risen a further 15.5p to 242p,the company rustied out a statement referring to talks with various parties on a range of options. Booker has risen 29.5p this week on stories of a German bid, with the giant retailer Metro rumonred as the predator. Metro denied it was interested.

The shares were riding at 353.5p at the start of the

fell further below its asset value, down 3.5p to 207p. Marks & Spencer, the retailing aristocrat, has not avoided the bruises. The shares fell 1.5p to 503p, just above

their 12 mouth low. Department stores chain a 40p plus to 840p. Allders siumped 50.5p to 139p after warning profits would not reach the £23.5m the market expected but would not be less

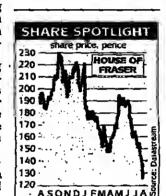
than £19m. House of Fraser retreated 9.5p to 125p. On Tuesday SG Se-

curities cut its profit forecast from £35m to £32.5m.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN



Superstores have fared rather better than the rest of the retailing herd and are within hailing distance of their deal gives the Finns a 7.5 per year's highs. But pressure is starting to intensify. The recently signalled Monopolies & Mergers Commission probe is

the unsettling influence. Safeway lost 10p to 350p. Somerfield 12.5p to 439.5p and Tesco 0.5p to 174.5p. Wm Morrison was lowered 7p to 249p. Asda firmed 3p to 193p and J

Sainsbury 4.5p to 510p. Footsie drew strength from New York where encouraging employment figures boosted the Dow Jones Average. The index rose 86.3 points to 5,680.4. The mid cap displayed a little life but the small cap gave ground.

After its poor run this week Friday fillip was due. Confidence has been damaged and some could not avoid describing the rally as no more than a dead cat bounce.

Compass, the contract caterer toasted by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson on Thursday, staged an appetising recovery. rising 50.5p to 588.5p. Telecom shares, given a poor reception this week, jumped on the recovery wagon with BT ringing

Nycomed Amersbam, maiden figures next week, put on 28p to 406p and Britisti Land, near its year's low in a depressed property sector, climbed 27.5p to 537.5p.

Allied Domecq, which has been in the doldrums, frothed 30.5p to 586p and Rank, the GILTS INDEX: n/a

leisure group, hardened 14p to 337p on hopes of corporate action. Many neglected stocks at-

tracted some support. Pilking-

ton, the glassmaker, managed a 3.5p gain to 98.5p and huilder Redrow firmed 4p to 134p. Jarvis, the construction and maintenance group, added another 13.5p to 643.5p ahead of

Tuesday's investment preseo-Shire Pharmaceuticals recovered 63p (to 356.5p) of its wounding fall and Tepnel Life Sciences reflected the removal of an overhang with a further

3p gain to 26p. Dennis, the coach maker accelerated 62p to 456p after Mayflower, a maker of car bodies, said it was prepared to bid 450p. Mayflower, off 2p at 195p, is barging into a comfy merger betweeo Dennis and Henlys, a bus and coach maker,

off 61p at 539p. Crabtree, an engineer contemplating a management buy

out, hardened 2p to 49.5p. Filtronic, a maker of hits and pieces for mobile phones. umped 98.5p to 568.5p after buying a similar husiness from Nokia, the Finnish group for £40m in cash and shares. The cent stake in Filtronic, which on Monday acquired a US group

ACQUISITIVE Ennstone, the vehicle for Vaughan McLead, former head of Ennemix, is likely to take a significant stake in Drings,

the Bath stonemasoo. It plans to inject its natural stone and concrete business into Drings in exchange for cash and

Drings, suspended at 2p, has had a difficult time since arriving on the Ennstone, formerly Albrighton, acquired Bruntcliffe Aggregates for

£26.2m in September.

Oliver, the shoe retailer. held at 24.5p after Hush Puppies, declared a 3.96 per cent stake and an institution took 4.16 per cent. And Sketchley. where Guinness Peat has built a stake. beld at 31.5p as Guinness Mahon and Sterling Property each ootified interests approaching 4 per cent. On Ofex oewcomer Airtel ATN, placed at 20p, moved to 35.5p.

Miyazawa, after making his first policy speech to parliament yesterday The B&B rise comes into immediate effect, boosting the Hong Kong slumps cost of the average variable mortgage of £50,000 by around The society's announcement on currency fears was closely followed by a larger increase from Nationwide. which will boost its variable rates from 8.1 to 8.5 per cent

Japan's Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi (right), with his Finance Minister, Kiichi

THE ASIAN currencies came By LEA PATERSON . building society raised its rates on Tuesday from 8.25 to 8.5 per terday and Hong Kong equities slumped amid disappointment over Japanese financial reforms and growing fears of a devaluation of the Chinese yuan.

The yen weakened against the dollar and Deutschmark following a keynote speech by Keizo Obuchi, the new Japanese Prime Minister, on economic reform. There was heavy selling of the Hong Kong dollar, and the Chinese yuan [ell to a five-year low against the US dollar on Shanghai's black market. Vietnam devalued its cur-

rency in an attempt to improve export competitiveness. The state bank lowered the "fixing rate" of the dong to 12,998 to the US dollar from 11,814. In Hong Kong, a year to the day after the Hang Seng equi-

ties index hit an all-time high of 16,820, the market tumbled to its lowest level in three years. Yesterday the index closed at 7,018.4. down 235.95 points. In his first policy speech before parliament, Mr Obuchi

promised tax cuts for next year

worth well over 6 trillion yen .(£27bn). He reaffirmed his commitment to reforming Japan's banking system, although analysts were disappointed by the lack of detail, and the yen weak-ened to 146 to the US dollar.

Stephen Hannah, chief economist at IBJ international, said: "What the market is looking for is a more realistic approach. It's looking for dramatic surgery on the banking system." Michael Derks, of Nomura International, agreed that financial sector

HANG SENG A SOND J FMAM J JA

CO)

reform should be the priority for the new government. He said: "Tax cuts aren't the solution. What desperately needs to happen is the banking sector needs to be fixed up."

A senior US Treasury official urged Japan to move quickly to enact the economic stimulus package and reform its banking sector. He said: "Prime Minister Obucbi outlines some promising and constructive steps to stimulate Japan's economy. We urge the government to move as quickly as possible to put them into place." The renewed yen weakness and the worsening economic

conditions in China rekindled fears of a devaluation in the vuan. Mr Derks said: "The situation in China has definitely worsened. The floods will have an enormous economic impact." The yuan fell to 9.2 to the US dollar on the Shanghai black market, 9 per cent lower than the official rate. Analysts said

fears of a Chinese devaluation

also lay behind the fall in the

the Hong Kong dollar.

Allders warns on profits

department stores group warned that pre-tax profit in the current financial year would be below analysts' forecasts, but not less than £19m. Allders blamed rising interest rates, which kept shoppers at home during the summer sales. It said it had seen disappointing revenues during the sale and that it was unlikely to

SHARES IN Allders fell 50.5p to By JOHN WILLCOCK

139p yesterday after the its forecast, along with other analysts, to £19m from £23.5m and moved his recommendation to "hold" from "buy". Allders said the former

Maples furniture stores, bought last September had taken longer than expected to establish themselves under the Allders brand. Harvey Lipsmith, chief ex-

ecutive, said: "I am disapmake up the shortfall during the pointed to have to cut back our profit expectations for this fi-Nick Bubb, an analyst at SG nancial year, particularly after Securities, said Allders bad last year's outstanding performistimed its summer sales. Mr Bubb reduced his pre-tax prof-

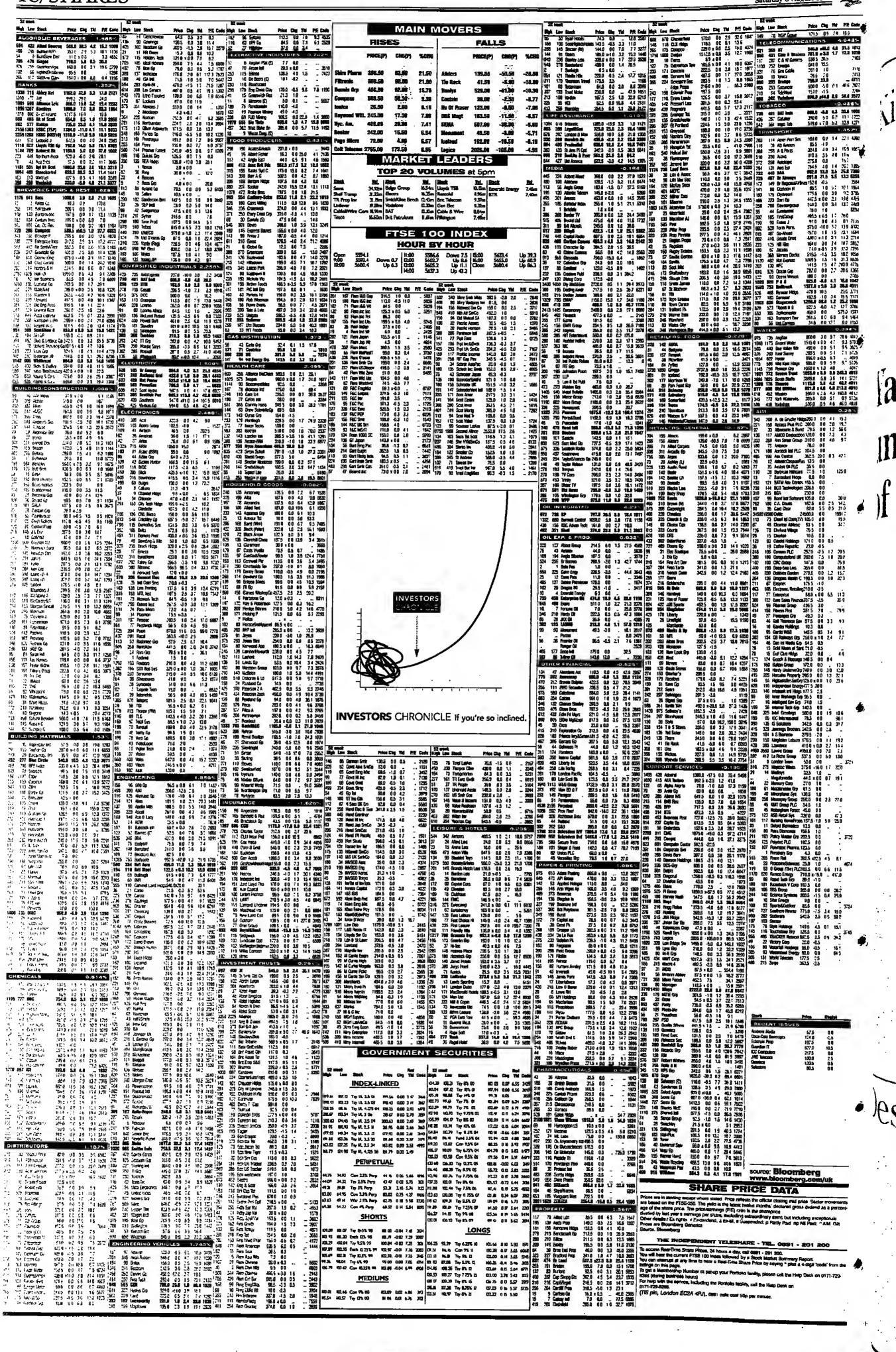
clear that six increases in in. terest rates have taken their toll of consumer confidence."

Mr Lipsmith said the conversion of the six Maples stores was completed three months behind schedule. The delay, oo top of the conversion costs, had wiped around £2m off profits.

Mr Lipsmith denied the warning signified a trend among shoppers away from depart. ment stores and towards specialist multiple chains. "While some department stores have been suffering from this downturn, f think we have some mance and an encouraging borrible figures awaiting us first half this year. But it is now from the multiples," he said.

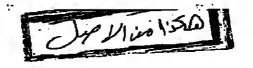
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THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 8 August 1998



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SPORT

Kidding around with the legend of Christie

WAS watching Linford Christie change a nappy the other weekend - not watching intently, but taking enough notice, as one who has changed more than a few, to appreciate a job well done.

The nappy in question belonged to Christie's 18-month old daughter, Briannah, as indeed did the fresh one which had been passed to him through the window of the spectators' box at the AAA Championships, where I was interviewing him. Briannah had come along for company, and after a laudable display of sweetness and patience, eventually lapsed into banging the tip-up seats about - as you do when the grown-ups get boring - before moving to the dirty protest stage. Not for the first time at these



MIKE ROWBOTTOM

ly into action: "Does this make me a New Man?" tie asked with a grin. "Take her home," I thought, "take her home and feed her and clear up the sludge on the high chair, give her championships, Christie got swift- a bath, get her ready for bed, look

in, tell her if she doesn't go to sleep you won't bring her her teddy, stop her crying, tell ber if she does go to sleep you will bring her her teddy. Bring her her teddy. Repeat, daily." Perhaps he did just that.

Anyway, this conjunction of Christie and kids prompted an anxiety-inducing recollection to do with... well, Christie and kids, although the kids in question were mine, and the great sprinter was no more than the subject of discussion. It was June 1995, on the day after

Christie had broken down in tears on Carlton TV's Sport in Question programme and said he couldn't face defending his Olympic 100 metres title the following summer. A few days earlier I had spoken

thing together in an article when the phone rang and I was asked if I would appear on a cable television

programme to discuss the subject.

It was agreed that, although I was not free to come into the studio, I would be rung at an appointed time to contribute. So, no problem. Well, slight problem, in fact, as I was in charge of two of my children, the younger of whom was having one of those "why?" and "why not?" kind of days. She had never been a terrible two. But today she was a fractious four.

A minute before the appointed time, having set the children up drawing in the kitchen with an additional, craven bait of crisps, I stole upstairs with the phone to the

The familiar sound of conflict made its way out of the kitchen, up the stairs and into my suddenly thindding veins. It might have been proprietorial; or perhaps territorial. Did I have time to ...? The phone detonated.

"Hello, is that Mike Rowbottom?" I was connected, and listening at one remove to bright voices, one male, one female. "You'll be on in a minute, if you'd like to hold," my caller said. "Can you hear the feed?" I could indeed hear the feed. And I could also bear the more local dispute over feed. And I could also hear my four-year-old approaching.

I had a choice. I could open the door, promise her sweets-teddycrisps-Tango-anything, and hope longer, hoping that her search of the first floor would be incomplete by the time I had said my piece.

"You're on," my other caller said, before giving way to the second, female voice. "Now with us on the line we have Mike Rowbottom, of The Independent, who spent the weekend with Linford Christie..." Had I done that? Surely I would have remembered? "Mike, what sort of state of mind do you think Linford is in now?" "Daddy!" "Will he really quit?" "Daddy, Daddy!"
Two rooms away, and holding.

"Well," I responded. "I personally don't think he will be able to resist the attraction of running in the Olympic Games, because ever since be started at this level be has

for her teddy, promise to find her to him at some length, and now I sanctuary of the front bedroom. And that she would co-operate. Or I always been a championship teddy later, read her a story, tuck her was attempting to bundle the whole shut the door. And waited. "And that has always been his strength, so I personally can't see that, when the Games actually come round, he will be able to say no." A male voice demanded: "Is it just that he's too old?" Footstens.

"Well, obviously, he's older than a lot of his rivals, but be only started competing property at 26, so in real terms he's not that old, be's probably only about..." "Mike, thanks for that," the female voice said. "Now car-clamping can always be relied upon to get people's hackles up..." Another voice was talking to me now. "Hello? Mike? That was great Thanks ever so much for all your belp." "No prob-

Yates faces an unenviable test of character

ENGLAND'S FRONT row future emerged blinking into the sunlight in Bath yesterday, only to discover the demons of bis recent past running riot across the lust green carpet of the Recreation Ground. Kevin Yates may be a World Cup cornerstone in the making and be may be in the best physical shape of his life, but it still takes only a single flicker of a camera shutter to remind him of the psychological burden of sporting notoriety.

The television crews almost fell over themselves in the rusb to pin their man against the nearest Georgian backdrop and ask him the big question: "Okay Kev, we're six months down the road. Did you

bite him or didn't you?" Yates, making his first public Bath last February, was having none of it with a proper training regime. and, with a mumbled, monosvilabic apology, be departed triskly for his car. The only response came from his fellow prop. Victor Ubogu. who bellowed: "Leave him alone, can't you? The guy's off limits."

He will find it difficult to stay off limits indefinitely as the 25-year-old loose head has elected to rebuild a high profile career at the scene of the crime, as it were.

Sporting crowds rarely forget a scandal and to the terrace comedians Yates will forever be remembered as the man who, during a cup match just after Christmas, helped himself to a piece of ear belonging to Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker. It will not matter a jot that be protested, and continues to protest, his innocence. He is fair game.

According to his colleagues, however, Yates' obvious discomfort at vesterday's official squad announcement and oboto-call is not reflected in the more private surroundings of the dressing room, "I think be's adapted incredibly well." said John Mallett, a close friend and fellow front-rower whose unstinting moral support belped Yates survive the most traumatic disciplinary saga in

the history of the English game. "As far as Kevin is concerned, it's common purpose." over Finished There will be no hard feelings about the way be was treated, no recriminations. He has

Eight months after shocking the world of rugby union by biting an opponent's ear, the Bath prop is back. By Chris Hewett

a tremendous amount to look forward to. There aren't many props in this country who can touch him and I think he'll be back in the England squad very quickly."

Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, takes the intriguing view that Yates will reap long-term benefits from his enforced absence from the game. "Look at Neil Back's career path," said the former England flanker. "He received a similar suspension for shoving the referee after the cun tainst us in 1996 and used the appearance since the dark days of time to put his body back together

"He re-emerged twice the player and there's been no stopping him since. Kevin will be the same, I'm sure. He's a big talent who now bas a big fitoess base from which to operate. He won't have enjoyed the last six months but there are positives he can take from the experience."

The Yates affair split the Bath dressing room in two-some players applauded the management's decivariety of disciplinary investigations, others were infuriated by what they saw as rank disloyalty to one of their own - but Robinson is confident that the old fraternal spirit has been pieced back together. His appointment as captain of Richard Webster. the former Wales and Lions looseforward, is seen as a major step to-

wards re-cementing the bonds. "Richard is club captain rather than first team captain," explained the coach. "He's not guaranteed a place in the starting line-up but we consider him a person who personifies this club and embodies the criteria we lay down for anyone wishing to call himself a Bath player.

"He leads on and off the field in strands and creates a sense of

Webster nodded sagely before adding: "I know a bit about leadership. I'm definitely in charge in my house."

Robinson is now seeking to finalise two international signings to sup-plement the arrivals of Ben Sturnham from Saraceus, Jim Fallon from Richmond and the brilliant 19-year-old scrum-half prospect from Wales, Gareth Cooper Jon Preston, the versatile All Black half-back, is 99 per cent certain to switch hemispheres -"anart from anything else, he kicks goals," enthused Robinson - and there is also a move to recruit Kevin Maggs, the Irish centre who is now

descent into receivership. "It's been a funny old summer." said Tony Swift, the Bath chief executive. "We seem to have been linked with every player in every transfer market in world rugby and we've been portrayed as some sort of predatory monster, homing in on everyone's best talent with a chequebook between our teeth.

"It's not the case, of course. We've gone after specific players and yes, we've said we're prepared to pay sion to suspend Yates pending a realistic transfer fees. Some have come our way and some, like David Rees at Sale or Malcolm O'Kelly at London Irish, have stayed put. Why do we get all the crap in the papers? We've played it straight down the

> Swift is steering well clear of the grandiose predictions made by some of his colleagues in the none to distant past. "I think it was two years ago that we sat here and boldly said we were going to win all four major tournaments available to us," he recalled with embarrassment "Given that we didn't win a thing that season, I won't go any further than to say that our sole objective is to challenge for major tionours."

For Kevin Yates, the challenge is a way that pulls in all the different far more personal and immeasurably more difficult. The strength of his scrummaging has never been questioned. We are now about to learn something of his strength of



Desperate for a piece of the pre-season action

THERE ARE two kinds of football fans (for the purposes of this discussion, anyway). There are those who will watch all their own team's matches and catch most of the other big games on the TV, but who find the prospect of, say, Huddersfield v Portsmouth on Sky about as attractive as an early bath with Vinnie Jones capologies to those for whom this is a pleasant prospect).

Then there are those who'll watch anything. Even pre-season friendlies. There's probably a good piece to be written about the new breed A of armchair fan, who can watch football on the telly virtually round the clock these days. The type who would have happily let several hours go by of what, after all, is a strictly limited life span, watching Channel 5 and Eurosport this week.



Don't get me wrong. I understand the purpose of pre-season friendlies, but it's a bit much putting them on the box. Am I alone in finding it astounding that a terrestrial non-specialist station, Channel 5, should screen games from a warmup tournament in the Netherlands in prime time? I'm not saying it shouldn't happen - nobody needs to watch, after all, and I suspect few did

grah a piece, any piece, of the action. Derelict of duty as usual, I couldn't

of flipping between channels on Tuesday, On C5 it was a case of Spot The Fan at Arnhem, where Chelsea were losing desultorily to Atletico Madrid. The occasional shout echoed round the ground, making it sound like the public swimming baths, but it was left to the ever-reliable Dennis Wise to liven up a petulant but deadly dull affair towards the end with a characteristic spot of stamping that earned him a red card.

There was a more lively aimosphere over on Eurosport for Manchester United's visit to Brann Bergen, where there was even some chanting (it being Scandinavia, they

that Jordi Cruyff was playing, but this was the kind of match where there's take more than about half an bour a bit more at stake, with the hosts anxious to impress their toftier guests. and it felt a little more like the real thing - but only a little more. Andy Cole, a man with something to prove. made it 4-0 with a three-touch goal (instep-thigh-instep-back of the net) worthy of Dennis Bergkamp, (When I said this to the Arsenal fan I was watching with, she was very nearly on the phone to her mates to organise a spot of bother for me).

Sky usually unveil a lavish new advertisement to kick off the season, but hard." Depressingly, they're right. this year's is distinctly underwhelming. "You love football. We love football," it says, superfluously, over shots of people like Sister Josepha, were presumably all United fans). You a Toon-supporting nun, and profes-

- but it smacks of a desperation to could tell it was pre-season by the fact sional Owl Roy Hattersley plus his dog Buster - then, to top it all off, the appalling Mick Bucknall, sitting in a dressing room smiling coyly at the camera while on the soundtrack he mangles the old Hollies number, "The Air That I Breathe" (which was rubbish to begin with). Why that song plaintive yet plodding? What are Sky trying to say to us? Why put out an ad in which every shot is a cliché,

full of that sourious romanticism and those overfiltered skies? What it says is, "We've got most of the football you're going to watch this season, so frankly we don't have to try that Like most sports that didn't involve

the proverbial 22 men kicking a ball, athletics dropped off the scale of public interest this summer and, though Channel 4 are trying to keep things

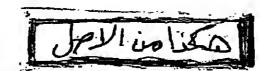
untary farewell last Sunday for the sport to impinge on the national consciousness. Even with the European Championships approaching, it was difficult to get too worked up about the Stockholm Grand Prix on Wednesday (C4 and Eurosport).

Part of athletics' diminishing appeal in this country is the paucity of British world-beaters, of course, and it was left to Jonathan Edwards and Steve Backley to remind us of the old days when we used to win things ("Backley won the javelin with Mick Hill in fourth place," said the commentator, Stuart Storey, a phrase you've heard so often it's difficult not to conclude that that is, in fact, his real name: "Mick Hillinfourthplace".

The organisers were doing their best to entertain, though. As each

going, it took Roger Black's invol- man for the 100m final was announced, the riff from Muddy Waters' "Mannish Boy" played on the PA. Distressingly though, the music just before the gun was the harmonica intro to Supertramp's "Crime of the Century", and I'm ashamed to say I recognised it instantly.

Like the athletics, there's a fagend feel to the cricket as well, borne out by the swathes of empty seats at Headingley at the start of the fifth Test. It was a day of classic England - from 181 for 3 to 200 for 8 in five easy stages. There was smoke coming from the scorers' pens, said David Gower as the eighth man down, Ian Salisbury, scurried off in self-disgust. Still, by yesterday lunchtime the other lot were a few down too, so we're not the only rubbisb cricket team around.







Michael St Maur Sheil/Colorific

'You should have been here last week' is the usual line about holidays in Britain. But, after seven wet days on the Lleyn Peninsula, Mick Webb rather wishes he'd been there this week instead

A week is a long time in Wales

one arm grasping a struggling child and the other flailing wildly, while the heavy seas

crashed menacingly below us. There was just time enough to ponder the folly of involving the whole family in hearty adventures before I miraculously found a

foothold on the slippery rock. The vertiginous scramble in search of St Mary's Well was just part of a week of outdoor fun on the Lleyn Peninsular on the very western edge of North Wales.

The plan was to forget computergames, TV and packaged entertainment and drag our children isix of them from two families, plus a dog and a German exchange student) kicking and screaming into the fresh air.

How the week panned out:

Sunday 26 July Arrive in Aberdaron after long drive through driving rain. Booked into a farm campsite on high windswept field. "You're a braver man than me."

the farmer observes helpfully. After battling like sailors in a round-the-world yacht race, we vanquish the elements and three tents prove?" we ask. were erected. Good team-building exercise, we reckon.

pletely lost, I cover what a lovely spot this is with tottered on the views across a wide bay, and only a narrow ledge, gentle stroll away from the village of Aberdaron with its two stores, pub, excellent bakery, tea-shop, and small hotel that was still offering "lastminute vacancies".

Other holidaymakers are not much in evidence, which means the curving beach was mostly empty. This is sea for battling with, rather than bathing in, but there are plenty of other distractions for all ages: falling off a windsurfer, building variations on sandcastles - the children make a dragon out of sand; and collecting pebbles, seaweed and yukky things - the younger ones find two dead dogfish and an equally

Tuesday

Lifting the tent flap reveals ... nothing, apart from a very low, very wet cloud, that appears to have settled in for the duration. We pack picnic and set out on cliff-top walk to St Mary's Well (the Ordnance Survey map shows several wells, and an

equal number of sheep-dips). We meet a sheep-farmer using a quad bike to shepl; rd his flock, most which have nasty coughs. "Do you think the weather'll im-

"Oh, yes," he says. "Next year." This is supposed to be a splendid ups pretend but the real reason is bowled over by the pink tinge that

choughs, and the visibility is too poor to see if there are any seals down on

the rocks. Blanche (10 years old) does spot a yellow-hammer which, just as the bird-book says, sings "a-little-bit-ofhread-and-no-cheese". Well, it does if you know that's what it's supposed to be singing. Fortunately our picnic is composed of lots of very good large hread rolls and loads of cheese. Unfortunately, we have to eat standing

up as the grass is saturated. Silas (fivel has such wet trousers he can't walk, but we carry him and press on to St Mary's Well. It's not easy to find we heard later of someone who's been looking for it on and off for 50 years. But then you doo't expect to find a well halfway up a cliff, which is where it is. Helen (13) thinks the lack of signposting is deliberate, as

it's so dangerous getting 'here. After my narrow escape from disaster, we fill a bottle with the water "the sweetest in Wales" (according to a man in the pub at Aberdaron), though by the time we get it back to the tent it had begun to pong. Some things just don't travel, do they?

Wednesday Weather no better Expedition to buy wellies and socks to nearest town: Abersoch. That's what the grown-

re can get in Aberdal there provides sweet little candystriped bags to conceal your winebottle, ("just in case you meet the vicar") and perhaps that is what dou-

bles the price. Abersoch is a good place to buy booze and wellies of all colours. It's a bustling little boliday port full of yachting-types in very clean clothes

The plan was to forget packaged entertainment and drag our children kicking and screaming into the fresh air

and unlikely tans. We linger for a while, feeling very unwashed, having coffee and boping for a sighting of Posh Spice and David Beckham, who are rumoured to have bought a holiday house here. At the end of the day, the sun appears in its full glory and we have a barbecue at the end of the beach. Faith (six) is

We all are. We spend ages throwing the coloured peobles at a plastic bottle, bank up the bonfire, sing songs and only Silas (five) is worried as he thinks our car will be locked in the car-park

More rain. Outlook worse. Confined to tents, one of which (mine) has almost collapsed, as a pole has broken Running, or rather sitting-down, repairs are effected. The children don't seem hothered by the weather - the older ones set up a casino in ooe tent, the others play for hours in the cars and are joined by other small damp waifs from around the camp-site. One of their fathers comes and warns his children that cars (his one anyway) are not for playing in!

The domestic chores seem to stretch out to fill the time allotted. We teach Thomas (16) from Germany how to wash up ("we have machines for this at home"). Thomas puts up good-naturedly with much teasing about his archetypal German habits - he is better acquainted with the campsite shower (20p in the slot for hot water) than all the rest of us put together. He also has a teutonic capacity for beer, wine, coffee and food, often all at the same time.

rice/pasta/potatoes, described as "strange, stewy contraptions" (Alec. 10) and "all horrible except

for breakfast" (Silas, 5). I'm not sure that the local cuisine is a lot better, though the Bramley apple cake at the Y Gegin Fawr teabouse is ace, and there's a nice cheese called Bardsey Chieftain (named after an island that's inhabited not by people, but by the spirits of 20,000 saints, though we couldn't afford the £100 boat fare to

verify this).

No improvement in the weather. Adults becoming rather moody and, in one case, almost clinically

We start drinking at hunch-time rather than in the evening. The children, on the other hand seem perfectly sanguine, and join wholebeartedly in the composition of a song about our holiday with the following immortal chorus:

Oh how we love Aberdaron, Oh what a beautiful bay The spirits of Bardsey are calling. A pity the skies are so grey

In the afternoon a trip is organised Whistling Sands, a beautiful bay owned by the National Trust where Our main meals all comprise a dip in the cold water revives flagging called Graham achieves immediate hero-status with our children for his prowess in catching crabs.

Back at the camp, a man and his family arrive with a trailer filled with kites. He's a professional kite-maker and soon the sky is humming with strange flying lilos.

Adults repair to the pub and return at midnight. Thomás the German repairs to another pub and returns with various new acquain-

An ironic but brief burst of sunshine accompanies the taking down and packing-up. We drive home past the rather more conventional boliday sites we might have visited: the stately home at Plas yn Rhiw; a Butlin's holiday camp with dayrates for visitors; the Blaenau Ffestiniog railway, and the extraordinary Italianate village of Portmeirion. I'd like to have stopped off there but by oow it is pouring with

rain again. Overall, amazingly enough. everyone seems to have enjoyed the experience. Clarrie (15) says she wasn't at all jealous of her friends who were clubbing in Minorca, and Alec (10) summed it up as "cool".

It certainly was. And wet. And cheap - £4 per family per night for

carriers Debooair, easyJet

records, though neither they

biggest charter carrier, says it

and Go also have flawless

nor any charter airline -

appear in the DoT figures. Britannia Airways, the UK's

St. Catherine's Monastery & Petra

visiting St. Catherine's Monastery and the Rose Red City of Petra

he convenient location of the 4-star Coral Hilton Hotel in Neweiba makes it possible to combine the fascinating siles of St Catherine's Monastery with the rase red city of Petra. The journey is further made possible by the direct hights from London Catwack to Sharm el-Sheikh and the regular ferry services to

Our journey commences with a four-night stay at the Coral Hillian Resort at Nuweiha. This will be our base both for relaxation on the Red Sea coast to enjoy the winter sunshine and our visits to St Catherine's Monastery and the Coloured Canyon, On Day 5 transfor by hydrofoil to Agaba and travel morth by road to Petra and the Inter-Continental for the next three During the stay at Petra we will visit various areas of

thesite tentrance fee not included and make optional visits to Little Petra and Wadi Rum, the location of David Lean's film Lawrence of Arabia', On Day Surive to Agaha for the regular passenger service to Sharm el-Sheikh and the return flight to Landon Gatwick.

The Petra Inter-Continental Hotel This 4-star hotel is situated close to Petra. The 149



rooms each has private facilities, air-con-

include two restaurants, lounge, terrace!

pool bor, swimming pool and shops.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

New 5, 12, 19, 26 0595 - Dec 3, 10, 17, 24*, 31 0595 Jan 7, 14.21.28.6595 - Feb 4, 11, 18, 25.6595 Mar 4, 11, 18, 25.6635 - Apr 1**, 8, 15, 22, 29.6635 Supplements: Single room £165. *Christmas/New Year £95. ** Easter £50

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The world's safest airlines

THE RAIN MAN was wrong: the world's best air safety record does not belong to Qantas, even though the Australian airline has never suffered a passenger fatality. An American carrier, Southwest, also boasts a

The Foreign Office Travel

uodate at 3pm yesterday:

A bomb exploded at the

US Embassy on 7 August. We

are not aware of any British

threat to UK interests in

casualties, nor of any specific

Advice Unit issued an

after Southwest - is SAS. The fatality-free record, and since Scandinavian airline has flown 5.4m journeys without it started up in 1971 has flown 6 million flights – against a a fatality. Ansett of Australia mere million by Qantas. has managed 2.5m accident-

The latest air accident

Transportation, which cover

airlines that have achieved a

The best performance -

aviation since 1970, reveal

"fatal event rate" of zero.

many other scheduled

figures from the US

Department of

vehicles, have been reported at road junctions. These attacks may be accompanied by personal violence. Exercise caution when in vehicles, keeping doors locked and windows shut.

Visitors should be aware of

45.

free flights. Finnair, Sabena of Belgium and Aer Lingus have all beateo the million barrier, They are joined in North America by Canadian Airlines and America West.

The best performance from a scheduled British airline is Air UK, which has since 1970. Virgin Atlantic

operated 800,000 flights safely also scores a zero, but on only 50,000 flights since it began in 1984. The new low-cost

has operated 2 million flights since 1970 without a fatal accident, which puts it among the world's safest airlines.

TACA of El Salvador, Air Jamaica and Kenya Airways also get a zero rating.

RED CHANNEL: TANZANIA

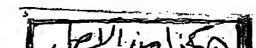
GREEN CHANNEL

Highway robberies, usually targetting stationary occasional random incidents of armed banditry in and around the Northern National Parks, Such incidents affect both recognised tour operators and independent travellers.

Food or drink should not be accepted from strangers as it may be drugged.

A number of violent muggings of foreign tourists have recently taken place on Zanzibar. Visitors should avoid deserted beaches and exercise extreme caution in Stone Town after dark.

Visitors and residents should register with the British High Commission.



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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Misbah's speed can pay in International

Simon Holt of Channel 4 Racing analyses today's Tote International Handicap



Atlantic Viking: Unattractive on his running at Newcastle where he was spent at half-way. Chewit: Looked to be given too much to do in amateur riders' race at Ascot One to watch. Crumpton Hill: Won at Kempton in May Not at best in Royal Hunt Cup but must be respected.

Decorated Hero: Won a Group

Three event at Newcastle over Diktat among five victories last year. Cannot be dismissed. Emerging Market: Below form recently and is best watched Gaelic Storm: Heavily backed for. the Stewards' Cup in which he disappointed from a poor draw. Not proven over this trip.

Hermonic Way: Fourth to Gaelic Storm at Newcastle. Best form has been over a furlong shorter. Hurricane State: Needs much improved form to figure here. Jo Mell: Staying on at Newcastle on heavy, but may find it too fast. Kumait: Ran well in Wokingham Handicap and was then beaten only a head in a big Newmarket handicap. Excellent chance.

Law Commission: Tricky customer but can shine if in the mood. Mantusis: Has shown best form on soft and will not like it fast. Mishah: This is his trip and he showed his wellbeing with smooth win over six at Newmarket

Nomore Mr Niceguy: Effective at this trip and said to be well. Ramooz: Won under top weight at York. Goes best when held up. Return Of Amin: Good second to Gaelic Storm at Newcastle and one that cannot be passed over Reunion: Won Nell Gwyn Stakes on first run as a three year-old. Has not recaptured that form. Russian Music: Likes the trip and ground but tends to hang under pressure.

Showboat: Ran well in Royal Hunt Cup from a poor draw. Best yet to come. Silca Blanca: Winner at Warwick but this is a step up.

Sugarfoot: Won here over a mile. Might find this trip too short. Sweet Wilhelmina: Won at Goodwood in June. Consistent. The Downtown Fox: Stable in fine form but he acts on heavy going and tends to hang. Tumbleweed Ridge: Won Group Three race at Leopardstown but disappointed at Haydock and

does not have much scope. Volontiers: Headstrong but won by 10 lengths at Epsom in June.

Warningford: Misses penalty for Yarmouth win and nicely weighted. Conclusion: MISBAH is cherry ripe and his turn of foot could be

2.45: Perugino Bay has group race form and is greatly respected, but LIGHT THE ROCKET was impressive last time and can find the necessary improvement.

3.15: A hard handicap to weigh up, but one certainty is that SPIRIT OF LOVE is crying out for this trip. He was good enough to win at 1m6f last time and can notch up his double at the chief expense of High Tension and Island Story.

3.50: Any number can be given a decent chance here, but SHOW-BOAT has a promising apprentice taking off 5lb and has also been drupped 21b since his good shith in the Bunbury Cup, registered when his stable was going through a lean spell. Bunbury Cup second and third, Kumait and Harmonic

Way, will again pose a threat. NEWMARKET .

3.00: Emma Ramaden has proved herself to be well worth following in amateurs' events lately and she teams up here with ALRABYAH. This colt lost a shoe last time and can be forgiven that latest defeat:

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

3.30: ETIZAAZ already heads the market for next year's 1.000 Guineas and John Dunlop's filly does seem to have only Kareymah to worry about on this

4.05: A high draw should help GULF SHAADI, a sufferer in a rough Goodwood race last week. Risque Lady looks dangerous.

4.40: CLASSIC FIND could return to form in a trappy contest.

HAYDOCK 3.45: There is plenty of pace among the low-drawn num and one who could take advantage is PROUD NATIVE. The David Nicholis yard is flying just now and this four-year-old returns to his best trip of 5f this afternoon.

4.20: MUTAMAM appeared last time out to be at last capable of realising the potential he has shown at home.

	1983	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	95	97
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HAYDOCK

HYPERION 2.05 Blue Melody 3.45 Proud Native 2.35 Heavenly Abstone 4.20 Mutamam 3.10 Silk St John 4.50 Spring Anchor (nb)

GOING: Good. STALLS: 71 & tm = inside; remainder - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: NORE

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Amost figt, own course; straight 6f course.

E Course is near junction of ASSO and M6, Newton station 2m. ADMSSSION: County Stand £17; Tattersalis £10; Newton Stand £5 (CAPs half-price in Tattersalis and Newton Stand). CAR PARK: Free.

I LEADING TRAINERS: J Dunlop 26-109 (219%), J Goeden 24-114 (211%), B Hitle 22-90 (244%), H Cecil 21-53 (396%).

ILEADING JOCKEY'S: G Carter 11-97 (113%), J Fortune 9-105 (86%), W R Swinburn 7-39 (179%), J F Egen 7-77 (11%).

FAVOURITIES: 214-8:5 (342%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Benevorius (210), Little Indian (420).

2.05 HALLIWELL LANDAU NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2YO fillies 6f Penalty Value £3,625

FORM VERDICT The form choice here is Blue Melody who wear't diagraced in a Group 2 on her perultimate outing and who ran well at Doncaster last time, but preference is for SAKHA who created a fewormable impression when winning at Kempton in July. She is open to further improvement and the stable is in pracking form.

2.35 TRONIC GRAVURE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) | 2.35 | TRONIC GRAVURE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) | £3,000 added 6f Penalty Velue £2,318 | 1 15505 WCE PRESSIDENTAL (5) (8F) (A Carley M Beby 8 9 8 ... P McCabe 2 00002 ROFFEY SPONEY (22) (D) (8F) (MS D F Cook) R Hennon 4 8 7 ... R Perham 11 8 54411 RHACESATE TOUCH (17) (CD) (A B Part) J Berry 8 8 8 ... G Carter 4 8 4 55501 CAUDA ECURA (4) (D) (METERIA For) M Cherry 6 1 ... A Eddary (5) 15 002540 MALJOVA (6) (D) (J D Garlam) R Holisanead 4 9 1 ... N Callen (5) 7 8 00052 MONTENERS (22) (D) (8F) (David Mort) R Hodge 7 8 8 ... W R Switzum 8 7 000453 HL SHAPSOOY (15) (MS B J Heritrip) B Pelling 4 8 10 S Sanders 3 9 /5004 BILKO (68) (J MS B J Heritrip) B Pelling 4 8 10 S Renders 3 9 /5004 BILKO (68) (J MS B J Heritrip) B Pelling 4 8 10 S Renders 3 9 /5004 BILKO (68) (J MS B J Heritrip) B Pelling 4 8 10 J Fartuso 1 B 0 00000 LOND HERA ANAIRAL (24) (C) (ER Rendry (2.0) M Heaton-Els 10 8 7 ... M Roberts 8 10 00000 LOND HERA ANAIRAL (24) (C) (ER Rendry (2.0) M Heaton-Els 10 8 7 ... M Roberts 8 10 00000 APRIL JACKSON (16) (° T Dakon) P Belon 4 8 9 ... J F Egan 8 V 19 50000 APRIL JACKSON (16) (° T Dakon) P Belon 4 8 9 ... J Brambill 12 -12 declared -

BETTING: 9-2 Lord High Admiral, 6-1 Caude Equina, 7-1 Rottey Spinney, Montendra, 8-1 Palace-gale Touch, Bilko, 16-1 Mujova, Hij Rhapsody, Cambrian Cadat, Henverdy Abstone, 12-1 others 1887: Palacegale Gold 7 8 10 P Feesey (8) 5-2 Li Berryi drawn (f) 8 ran

FORM VERDICT

There should be plenty of pace on here which will suit MONTENDRE attribibly and he can put a poor run behind him. He books to have a very good chance at these weights and is preferred to Caude Equina, successful at Beth this week. [3 46] HARVEY JONES RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) 97,750

٠,	l Ie	5. IUI		00 0, 21,10
1	Ľ		added 1m 30yds Penalty Value £5,234	
	1	182083	NIGHT OF GLASS (36) (D) (K Shrester and Mr B Shrester) J L Eyre	583.0 Peers 12
	2	121316	SELK ST JOHN (14) (D) (BF) (C R B Partners) M Ryan 4 8 2	N Callan (5)
	3	056000	RUDI'S PET (7) (Jonethan Rameden) Mrs J Rameden 4 8 2	Fortune 5
	4	2032-5	MAMMINGO (25) (D) (Nes Chinde Libry) G Wragg 5 9 19	W R Swinborn
	5	4-0105	CYBERTECHNOLOGY (7) (D) (E Pició Mrs J Cecil 4 8 fl	S Sandara
1	B	00-000	HI NOD (7) (Brien Norder) Mee J A Cerrecto 9 8 11	
1	7		SELLETTE (324) (D) (Mrs Judy Minstop) D Haydh Jones 4 8 10	
1	8	-31034	SEMEVENTUS (21) (FI N Khen) J Dunlop 3 8 8	G Carter 5
3	8		BUZZ (5) (Guy Read) C Thomson 8 8 8 (4ex)	
ı	10	522300	WUXI VENTURE (8) (D) (Dr Frank S B Chac) 9 Woods 8 8 7	Tisto
ı	11	004010	ABAJANY (11) (D) (John While and Partners) M Channon 4 87	
1	12	5.01	CRUMN A RHORD (34) (Lord Dorby) A Street R R 5	M Roberte 1

FORM VERDICT

Both Cruinn A Bhord and the free-running Boneventus are possible improvers, but the cider MIGHT OF GLASS has more solid form and showed last time in particular that he is up to winning off this mark. Silk St John should also go well.

3.45 CORAL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £20,000 added C4 Right blue, white hollow box, check cap 001036 CYRANO'S LAD (21) (D) (Al M Foulgar) J Benks 8 9 3 _______ G Feeliner (5) 8 111

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Proud Native: 15th in the Stewards Cup last week (traveling in unlawoured centre gooup) was best effort for some time. Goss well over today's distance.

Moon Strike: Changed stables since taking this race last year off a 4th lower mark. Pan poorly at Doricaster in June and may need the race.

The Puzzer: Performed well in first three runs of the secsion but disappointing and hald by several of today's other runners on recent form. Best watched.

The Gey Fox: Has run consistently well in a busy season, his only victory carns at Sandown in April. Portly drawn when 26th in the Steward's Cup last week.

Ellens Lad: Broke the course record over 5t at Nawmarkst in July before disappointing 6th in 5t rated stakes at Ascott (good to firm), with Divine Miles-P (we lengths sheed in third and 5th worse off.

in third and 55 worse off
Cyrano's Lack Weteran who has lost the sparide of last season when runner-up in
the Numbrope Stales. Well-besten sixth over today's track and trip last month
Classy Cleec Winner of two handlages over today's distance this season, she may
have found 6t too far when fifth to Abnezes at Yarmouth (good to firm) last month
Helio Mister: Former useful handlages who looked to be on the way back when
2 lengths third of four to Venture Capitaist last morth. Needs to be held up
Divine Miss-P: change of stables has not siten the momentum from a fine season for this game front-running mere, though may struggle to confirm form with Ellens Lad on Ascot running
Storytalter: A vesity improved sprinter who has risen 27th during his successful fiverace whining spell. May not yet have been caught by the handlagoper

Anselman: Very good 1½ lengths second to Superior Premium when well-drawn in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last week in form and looks sure to run well stuffed: Has not run since reportedly this hing distressed in a 5t handcap at York in the soft at the beginns of Juna. Previously in good form but may need race Westcourt Magiter 5to better off for around two lengths when beeten may read race Mestago Park at Newpastle.

Prince Dome: Malkes a quark reappearance after finishing fourth at Ripon (6t, good) on Monday. Should appreciate return to 5t.

Ruzen: Finished severath behind Eastern Lyric at Goodwood legin days ago, with Arfain (how 4th worse off, fine lengths ahead in second. 5t probably too short Arfain; fan very well from a good draw when neurowly bealen by Eastern Lyric, and holds Ruzen on that running. Seems to be on the upgrade. Mungo Park: Consistent handcapper who goes very well for today's pockey, looked in top form getting up to best Lago & Warano at Newcastle (5t, good) in July Gay Breezze Much Improved handcapper who has won three times and run well twice in defeat this season. Holds Prince Dome and Westbourt Magic on his Second place to Nuclear Debate in a valuable spirit handcap at Newcastle Reyal Dome: Won this roce two years ago off a mark 4th higher. He was disapporating last time out but had previously agnalled a return to form with a batting second at Caterick (5t, good to firm).

VERDICT: ELLENS LAD failed to pick up at Ascot but had previously seclent in

VERDICT: ELLENS LAD falled to pick up at Ascer but had previously looked in very good heart and may be worth another chance with conditions in his favour today. In-form handleappers Gary Enexus and Murrigo Park are obvious dangers, and Storyteller is still far enough ahead of the handleapper to leature prominently. Arjan looks the best of Jack Berry's two runners.

| 4.20 | PETROS ROSE OF LANCASTER STAKES (Group 3) (A) £30,000 1m 2! 120yds £19,600 | PETROS ROSE OF LANCASTER STAKES (Group 3) (A) £30,000 1m 2! 120yds £19,600 | PETROS ROSE OF PETROS R

Street - | Section | - | Sec

FORM GUIDE

ce: Rewarded for consistent efforts in defeat, when winning the Group Winter Romenos: Rewarded for consistent efforts in defeat, when winning the Group 3 Scottleh Classic at Apr (in 21 soft) last month. Prince Of Deniel: Won raised states at York in May, Seamed unsuted by firm ground in valuable handicap at York last month, but big weights make him hard to place. Stence Religns: Finished well to take a classy conditions states at Doncaster (in 21, good) in June. A lists developer who may have enough improvement to take the Little findiant Useful two-year-old, winning the 6f Solatio States at Sandown. Well held since, including when remote third in a Newmented (in 4f, good) conditions states. Mutamam: High-class at two, had a desappointing early season including a poor run in the Derby. Came back to form with a verigeance last time when beging Taverner Society by seven lengths at Sandown (in 2f, good to firm). Teepot Row: 1997 Royal Lodge winner showed he had resented all his ability when a head second in a Doncaster (in, good to firm), conditions stakes three weeks ago

VERDICT: From a mixture of improven but promsing horses and those with form in pattern company it usually pays to side with expensiona. Former Derby hopeful Museum fells into this category, as does TEAPOT ROW, a classy two-year-old who appears to be returning to his best and is bred to stay today's trip Of the four-year-olds, Silence Reigns, by a horse (Saddens' Hell) who was himself a late developer, looks to have the most improvement.

4.50 MTB GROUP HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m

NEWMARKET

HYPERION

4.05 Gulf Shaadi

4.40 Classic Find

5.10 Salsette

2.00 Rainbow Ways 2.30 Sharp Shuffle 3.00 Airabyah 3.30 Etizaaz

GOING: Straight mile - Good to Firm; remainder - Firm. STALLS: Im 2tplus - stands side; remainder - centre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Right-hand course with im straight.

| Course is SW of town on ATOU. Bus 8nk from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ADMISSION: Club 216 (helf-price 16-25-year-clds); Grandstand & Paddock STI (half-price 16-25-year-clds); Danier 18-25-year-clds), J Duniop 22-137 (161%), J Goaden 21-141 (149%), L Cauriani 19-129 (14.7%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettori 41-208 (19.7%), R Hälls 27-133 (20.3%), J Reid 18-128 (19.7%), P Robbisson 10-125 (80%).

18 (136%), P Robinson 10-125 (80%). THE CASHA, F. HOUSENED THE COUNTY.

E FAVOURITES: 208-573 (SSS).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rainbow Ways (200), Song Of Sicye (405).

ı —			
12	2.00	MONTANA WINES MAIDEN STAKES (CLAS added 1m 4f Penalty Value £4,425	SS D) £6,00
ļī		EMINENCE GRISS (15) (Maric Said) H Ceci 3 8 10	L Dettor
2 3 4		MAJESTIC (T7) (Patroli Kelly) I Williams 3 8 10	R Hugher
3		RAINEOW WAYS (22) (Meldourn Al Meldourn) B Hills 3 8 10	
4	0	HARE PARK POLLY (27) (Peter Charter) A Carrol 3 85	A Hell (7)
		-4 declared -	

HETTING: 4-6 Reinbow Ways, 3-1 Eminence Griss, 7-2 Majestic, 50-1 Hare Park Polly. 1997: Manul 8 8 10 G Hard 5-1 (J Gosdon) circum (4) 10 ran FORM VERDICT

One of two valuable time! maidens to attract a larmeritable field today. Reinbow Ways has the best form, but tooks one to be warry of in first-time binkers, and Eminence Grise herdly shone over course and detance lest time, leaving MAJESTIC a reluction after a tarrly encouraging debut effort.

2	2.30	NEW ZEALAND CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 77 Penalty Value £3,883
1	053004	BACHELORS PAD (14) (Mrs D N Allen) W James 4 8 3
2	-4310	MARIGLIANO (USA) (14) (D) (T R Pryle) K Morgen 58 3
3	023021	SHARP SHUFFLE (8) (C) (D) (Mrs H F Prendergest) R Hennon 5 8 1
4	16400-	BUROLPEK PROFILE (310) (D) (Goose Partnersho) J Portmen 4 8 11 S Whitworth 4
5		PRIME PARTNER (183) (D Crucksharik) Par Mitchell 5 8 10
8		TOFFOLIX (15) (G C Neme) P D'Arry 8 7 tl Decian O'Shea 8 V
		-8 declared -
BE	TING: 5-	Bachelors Ped, 2-1 Sharp Shutile, 7-2 Merigilano, 8-1 Eurolink Profile, 25-1 Prime
7	tner, 33-1	Totiolex
198	7: Windy T	rest 5 8 9 G Carter 10-1 (E Dunlop) drawn (1) 11 ran

Marigliano has arguably the best recent form, but might prefer a softer surface, and with Bachelora Pad disappointing and Eurolink Profile not easy to assess after an absence, the way could be clear for consistent SHARP SHUFFLE to follow up a recent settles with both.

3.00 DANDELIDN LADIES INVITATION HANDICAP (CLASS F) £6,000 1m Penalty Value £4,416

-14 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Rabel County, 9-2 Kneve's Asis, 11-2 Sis Gerdan, 7-1 Roman Reel, Porest Robin, 10-1 Swan Island, 12-1 Airabysb, 14-1 others 1997; Sendiciffie 4 10 11 Mas E Johnson Houghton 10-3 few (J Toller) drawn (5) 12 ran

Knave's Ash: Formerly very useful, has put in good efforts recently including besting

FORM GUIDE

Forest Robbin in an exprentice event at Thick (tin, good) last month. Can be forgiven moderate run at Goodwood last week on ground too eoft. Ribbel County: Steedly returning to form, including conflortable wrr at Bath in July, Unloudy last weekend when failing to colar enterprisingly ridden Massoci at Chester SIS Gardent Consistant mare who won on equitrack at Lingdied last Saturdey. Winner off rifb higher on all-weather than turf and looks well-handicapped. Roman Reefs: A regular who sheways runs well in this type of event, he won two amateur races on Lingdied equitrack over tin 2! serier this season. Lingdied equitrack over tin 2! serier this season, latest effort was when sixth of twelve behind Migrate at Yarmouth (tin, good) last month. Tipperary Sunset: Vet to recepture sparkle of last season when he won four times. Best effort this term was strong finishing fifth at Beverly over Inadequate (7/6) trip. Forest Robbin: 3lb better off with Kramevis Aath for a head beating at Thirsk. Did not get a clear run in a large field at Donosster last week.

Alimatystic: Best effort was when fifth in a Goodwood (tin, good to firm) malden at the start of the season. Well-held in handicaps over further ence. Hes very able pilot today.

Switch and the season of the state of a roll when easily winning her maiden at Southwell (tr., fibresand) lest month, but disappointed at Thirsk next time. Cleaste Conkere: Has shown little in three runs to date.

Mazzoramic: Pen a poor race at Yarmouth last time but previously finished a close-up third of twenty in a Nottinghem (et, good) hendicap. Normally consistent Mutahadeth: No impression in a 20-runner handicap at Catterick on Wednesdey, Has much better form on artificial surfaces.

Little Sand Control of the Sand days. Takes a drop in trip
Chief Blads: Looked an improving performer when tourth of 16 at Folkestone (7),
good to firm) last time. Increase in distance should suit

VERDICT: REBEL COUNTY runs on a merk nearly two stone lower than during her purple peach of two seasons ago, and her recent form suggests also may be about act Robbin lock Realy to run well, while the booking of Baine Ramaden for Alrabyah may be significant.

Elizanz: Choicely bred 500000gns fily made fevounte for next seasons 1000 Guiness after 6 length with over two fellow newcomers at York lest month (7t, good to firm). Hadios: Confirmed pxonies of malder, win at Natingham when third in Listed event over 6f at Newbury. Will have to show great improvement to 8gure today's distance (good to firm) last month. The numer-up won at Chester last week. Kurwatt Dewns: Sure to improve on debut run when a 33-1 neck second of five to Tough Guy over today's track and trip lest week.
Westalda Phyer: Has shown modest form in maidens and looks outclassed.

VERDICT: If Ettracz is to maintain her position in the betting for next season's first filled dessic than she should take this contest with ease. She showed a tentilic burst of acceleration at York and, from a stable with a good record in the Sweet Solars, should justly should fish should fish on or of Kereymetr's debut with hes worked out well end with the expected improvement she can figure in the firsts.

white, red such, set and white striped cap 6-3050 PSSQUE LADY (9) (M Godwin M Holls B Lawrence) P Herris 8 8 2...

yellow, black olac, check cap ~15 declared ~ Majmure weight: 7st, 10th, True handloop weights: Plas Song 7st 8th, Dandy Regent 7st 8th. BETTING: 5-1 Royal Mark, 6-1 Persian Feyrs, 7-1 Gift Of Gold, Pipe Bong, 8-1 Gulf Sheadi, Ter-ture, Mount Holly, 14-1 others 1897: Neurot 5-9 rt 8 Sanders 9-1 (R Alekturst) drawn (12) 17 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Guif Sheadt: Not much luck this term but looked as good as ever on a number of occasions. Badly hampered at Goodwood tast week. Handicapped to his best though Lone Piper: Won conditions status at Newmartet (7, good) in May before well best-an at 33-1 in Group 3 at Royal Asoct. Shaped well test week and is still unexposed Risague Lady, Better than form figures suggest tast 3 starts, but has to improve on previous best. Won twice on fast ground as 2yo, and this is her first run on it in 1998 Parallan Feynet. Won dessified states at Haydock (good to firm) in June and 3 reliable sort for 71 handicaps. Second of 8 to Grey Kingdom at Ayr tatest outing Royal Marin: 55 higher than when winning 14-runner race at Newcasile (7t good) 12 days ago, but took that quite impressively even though getting up by only 7-length Parletan Lady. Third of 8 to Volontiers in issed race at Epsom (7t, good to firm) wee a very good effort, but she has out no ice in two handicaps since Consort: 15 higher than when winning 28-runner race at Newmartes last November. Sehind in two top-cless handicaps this season and 6th of 8 in a rated states. Chipae Lisetti as a 2yo in 1997, but little promise in two handicaps this July Tartism: Meas good effort, but till be promise in two handicaps this July Tartism: Meas good efforts with some undistinguished ones. Capable of going well high entire the destination of the promise of the promise of going well in 1997. Narrowy beaten at Goodwood less week after racing wide, and should go well Mownt Holly. Won 20-runner race (tim, 8m) here at the July Meeting and ran well again ned time. 7f form is not at that level however
Ropton: Won 20-runner sever at Docuster (7t, good) in June. Subsequent efforts give him much less of a chance
Song Of Sityer Promising third of 10 at Sandown (7t, good) in May. Below that form einz, but that he been over "n/8f and she has dropped 7b in the weights
Plps Song: Sprint bred and raced only over sprint trips so tex. Won marden on sand as Wolverhampton in Agrit. Has ner

at Wolverhampson in April, Has remeined in form and stayed on well over 61 last time Dendy Regent: Won 16-runner race at Brighton (71, good to soft) in April, Hed planty of fast-ground form as Syo, but little to recommend him on last 4 stains this term

VERDICT: Royal Mark looks a worthy favourise but might not be much value. At the other end of the betting, SONG OF SKYE is a good dest more speculative but a reasonable case can be made for her dropping back in trip. Lone Piper and Gift Qf Gold are others for the short-fist.

4.40 GEORGE CLEVERLEY MEMORIAL HANDICAP
(CLASS D) £6,000 1m 2f Penasity Value £4,776

1 4200 SECRET BALLOT (44) (D) (Nelsed Al-Makes) K Mahrd 4 8 10 ... W J O'Connor 5 83 while, girt pron spots, ethic stewards
2 0-0050 ALHAWA (B) (DGF Pertnership) Mrs J Remeder 5 9 9 ... L Detart 1 90 and white (Welled), disabot on steward, quartered cap
3 -0502 MUTADARRA (B) (CD) (EP) (Mrs R Brown) W Museon 5 8 13 ... J Reid 8 87 and white (Welled), disabot on steward, quartered cap
4 -3050 HERR TRIGGER (77) (CD) (The Inn Cound) br J Scarge 7 8 13 ... J Lowe 7 8 80 anneald green and purple stripes, enhand green sherves, purple samlets
5 245650 CLASSIC FIND (6) (D) (Classic Bloodscody Pat Mixter 5 6 8 ... M Fenion 4 111 purple, white such and star on cap
8 0-4030 GREENAWAY BN/ (19) (Materians Lts) W Museon 4 8 7 ... P Robinson 5 92 Aght Date, Disch Loop, Byll Date Stewers, yellow samiles, block cap
7 3224 PRIMARY COLOURS (213) (EP) (Surcon Rackey) J Peace 3 8 5 ... R Price 2 107 black, yellow Colours, yellow service, and cap
8 -85040 MASSYAR SEVERTEEN (21) (D) (D) Western) P OActy 4 8 4 ... C Lowther 6 89 purple, white spots, purple alsowers, striped cap
9 040005 AFRICAN SUN (35) (N Petither) M Carpmen 5 7 10 ... Decitar O'Shee 5 70 white, and stars, showers and star on cap
-8 decitared -8

-8 declared - Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handkap weight: African Sun 7st BETTING: 5-2 Muladama, 7-2 Albanan, 11-2 Herr Trigger, 6-1 Secret Ballot, 7-: Classic Find, 10-1 Pricery Colours, Massyar Seventson, 14-1 others 1997; Hejr 3 8 3 W Ryan 5-1 (E Curiop) drawn (6) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Secret Ballot: Very buey in April to late June, mostly running well, Appeared to have gone off the bod lest two eter's but has had 8 weeks of and is nessonebly treated. All week lest not run over tim2! for over two years, has not won a race for even longer and mey have to tall a bit further in the weights judged on this season's evidence. Mutacharma: Likes to come from behind and does not win that often, but last two storts show that he is capable of winning again soon if everything goes right. Here Trigger: Missed nearly all 1868 and below form in 1857, Better form this year, but that was on the elf-weather and his return to turl last time brought only 9th of 14. Cleastic Plind; Well treated on 1867 and last writer's sif-weather form. Some promise earlier this summer for when returned to ind2, but an poorly at that trip last two starts Greeneway Bey! Lightly raced and disappointing for Geoff Wingg, Has tumbled down the weights for new trainer this season without showing much promise. Primary Colours: Modest turf form limit two starts as 2yo. Much better on all-weather until well beaten in January. Best weatherd on first nur since, though should showly staying on well over 'm then hempered ov. Tim2! Conditions are probably in his favour African Sun: 'est to win in 30 starts and well out of the handcap here.

VERDICT: Mutadeura is in good form but not one to go overboard about at a short.

VERDICT: Mutaderns is in good form but not one to go overboard about at a short price. The remainder are not a very inspiring collection, but Secret Belliot has plently of form this season their would give him a major chance while, at the other end of the hundring, MASSYAR SEVENTEEN has fallen told in the weights this year and showed enough on his last two starts to suggest that he can now take advantage.

5.10 CSFB AUSTRALIA EQUITIES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 6f Penaity Value £3,525

D) £5,000 added 3YO 6f Penaity Value £3,525

1 333 DESIGNER (USA) (210) (Shein Mohammed) J Gosden 8D L Dettori 8

2 2 DOSEPNAN (17) (J Wenter) 8 Meeten 9 0 J J Reid 2

8 150900 LORENZO (33) (Harned Al-Musee) K Mahd 8 9 C Lowther 3

4 0-A LAMPROOL (500) (Harned Al-Musee) K Mahd 8 9 C Lowther 3

5 0-000 SALSETTE (16) (Sheed Manana) C Bittain 8 9 Ped Eddery 6

3 4-23 SURRIAY NIGHT (657) (77) Libber Abdulish) E Duniop 8 9 Ped Eddery 6

3 4-23 SURRIAY NIGHT (657) (77) Libber Abdulish) E Duniop 8 9 S Whitwardt 1

5 declared
BETTING: 4-6 Designer, 9-2 Sunday Right, 6-1 Doberman, 6-1 Almaroo), Saleette, 100-1 Lonersco 1997: Midyen Call 9 0 M Fenton 6-1 (M Bel) drawn (1) 9 ren

REDCAR

HYPERION 2.20 Cholrgirl 2.50 Gypsy Music 3.25 Saifan 3.55 Good Hand 4.30 The Accountant 5.05

GOING: Firm (Good to Firm in places).

STALLS: Streight course - stands side; 2m - centre; rest - ireide.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 5f to 1m.

El Left-hand, tight course, with a one mile streight.

El Course is off A 1055, Sortion 300 yd., ADMISSION: Club 514; Paddock 19; (OAPS 5146); Course 53 (OAPS 5150), CAR PARIC Fise.

ELEADING TRAINERS: Mire Mi Reveloy 35-997 (1114), J Gooden 9-80 (317%), M Johnston 17-187 (12/M), J Duniop 15-65 (221%),

ELEADING JOCKGYS: J Wisswer 21-24 (63%), J Cerroil 21-148(141%), A Cultimen 11-144 (72%), G Hind 10-47 (213%).

BLINKERIED FIRST TRAE: Belence The Books (515), Donne's Denoer (volved).

2.20 SINNINGTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,600 added 2YO filles 7f BANK ON MEE J.J Cuirs 8 11 ______ A Cuitone 5 CHICODOVE Sir M Prescott 8 11 _____ G DeBled 4

FORM VERDICT Although the has had several chances, KALIDASA has been running well enough to suggest she can win this maiden. The step up to 71 should not be a problem, and she is preferred to Cholroid and Rahawah

2.50 ARCHIBALDS RED CROSS SELLING STAKES (F) £3,000 added 2YO 6f ODDS BOOFAR SGNET (14) M W Esserby B 11 ... J Newwor 17 B
400 E. JUYTEE (20) M W Esserby B 11 ... J Newwor 17 B
400 E. JUYTEE (20) M W Esserby B 11 ... J Newwor 17 B
400 E. JUYTEE (20) M W Esserby B 11 ... J Newwor 17 B
400 ESSERBER (19) J Berry B 11 ... Jane Wands (5) 15
5000 MAJOR GAMBLE (25) J J Chim D 11 ... R Itavida (5) 11
500 MAJOR GAMBLE (25) J J Chim D 11 ... R Itavida (5) 15
5000 BOOFAR ANNA (17) M W Esserby 8 C. S Romemore (7) 18 B
5000 BOOFAR ANNA (17) M W Esserby 8 C. S Romemore (7) 18 B
5000 DISHABILLE (14) J Bethel 8 B ... G Defined 19
600 DISHABILLE (14) J Bethel 8 B ... G Defined 19
600 DISHABILLE (14) J Bethel 8 B ... G Defined 19
600 DISHABILLE (14) J Bethel 8 B ... G Defined 19
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600 DI

FORM VERDICT ROTOSTAR, despite a below-per effort last time, is given a ter-tative vote to best Dillus and Wind in Winnipeg. 3.25 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH HANDICAP (D) 25,000 added 1m

12 605022 THATCHED (11) (CD) (BP) R Borr 8 7 10 ___ J McAziny (7) 1D 13 30630 PLEASURE TRICK (11) (D) E incise 7 7 10 ____ Kire Timider 7 — 13 declared — — 13 declared —
BETTING: 11-4 Obercar's Mist atthers
BETTING: 11-4 Obercar's Mist atthers
BETTING: 11-4 Obercar's Mist atthers FORM VERDICT

There are several possibles here, notably Oberon's Mistral, and Wild Sky, who has been in good form recently. However, having run an encouraging race last time at Newbury, SAIFAN is taken to win this event for the aecond consecutive year. 3.55 MARY REVELEY RACING CLAIMING STAKES (F) £3,300 tm 6f

- 4 declared -BETTONG: 6-4 Sherity, 9-4 Good Hand, Brodessa, 12-1 Petoskin. FORM VERDICT Airhough Siliently has an outstanding chance at the weights, he is proving hard to win with, and is no great bettler. On the other hand, both BRODESSA and Good Hend are reely genuine sorts, who pould well outbettle him.

4.30 VAUX CIU RED CROSS MAIDEN HAND-ICAP (D) £5,000 added 1m 2f

— 19 declared — BETTING: 4-1 include He Cut, 5-1 Moving Princess, 6-1 Offic's Chuck-ia, Piccadilly, 7-1 Princess, 8-1 Lines-G, La Lyonesse, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT MOVING PRINCESS shapes as though worth another by at this trip and is preferred to Include Me Out, whose recent form at the trip gives him sound claims, though this trip looks a bare minimum for him. **FORM VERDICT**

5.05 GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 6f

SPOTTED EAGLE signated a return to form and has good of on a track where he's run well in the past. I. A Touch do have much of a win record, but is capable of a big run.

Thermal riders risk all for the thrill of flight

European Paragliding Champiooships in Piedrahita, central Spain. was Switzerland 15,529 points, Italy 14,167pts, France 14,040pts, one dead pilot and two seriously injured. In this sport you do not need drugs to go as high as a kite: the thrills come from soaring like an eagle and exposure to extreme risk.

What recreational paragliders claim is a relatively safe hobby transforms itself under competitive conditions. In esseoce, paragliding involves running from a hilltop to launch a fabric wing from which the pilot hangs, as though under a parachute.

There the similarity ends. Not only are paragliders very manoeuvrahle - through the use of control lines to turn, or to increase or decrease airspeed - hut they can climh as well as descend, in favourable conditions. Their original appeal lay in their portability and minimal set-up time. Fitting into an oversized rucksack, they offer mountaineers a sensational way to descend from a climb, and have even been flown off Mount Everest.

The developing challenge in the sport has been to fly ever-increasing distances, which Britain has excelled at over receot years. The team's fifth place in the European Championships this year was disappointing in the light of a run of

THE SCORE at the end of the recent Paragliding has become more competitive, but pilots are putting their lives on the line in search for victory. By Eric Kendall

> 1997 individual world champion, and other strong contenders oo the team. Gill Hartley came third in the

> women's individual ratings. In competition, pilots score cumulatively over a given number of flying days, hy flying round courses set by the race organiser and a "pilot jury", according to the

Both of the major accidents in this year's championships occurred in reasonable cooditions. It will. probably remain unclear exactly why they occurred, but one involved a mid-air collision between a Slovenian and a Swede, resulting in the death of the Slovenian. One day's flying later in the week was cancelled mid-race due to thunderstorms, which pose the ultimate threat to paragliders, sucking them upwards to almost certain destruction.

The competition is about distance and speed, with the day's cross-country "task" taking pilots round a circuit which can be 60 miles long or more. With 150 competitors in the European Championships, massed starts were spectacular both before and after take-off. Uotil

particularly with John Pendry, the looks like a surfing scene oo a mountain top, only the stakes are higher, the tattoos higger and the hair longer. Colourful canopies cover most of the available flat ground while competitors maintain a seriously relaxed attitude. Then helmets and flying suits go on, wings rise into the sky in swarms, and spiral upwards in "gaggles" to around 12,000 feet or more; the pilots look eveo more laid back than when they are on the ground.

Each turn point of a course must be flown over and photographed before flying onwards. Competitors are timed into the goal field where they land, and results are known once pilots' films have been checked to establish that all of the turns were flown over, in the correct order, by the various finishers. Only about 30 per cent of the field made the goal each day - normal at this level of competition.

The recent accidents have hrought a number of issues into focus: pilots pushing harder, and risking weather cooditions they would normally avoid, have made incideots common. At last year's World Championships, also in Spain, more than 30 pilots were forced to resort to their reserve parachutes when they got into extreme difficulty. Most recreational pilots would expect never to use this last resort during the course of their flying career Competitors also suffered large numbers of "minor" injuries mainly hrokeo arms and legs.

A major factor is the use of very high performance paragliders. These are so unstable that they leave little or no margin for surviving major turbulence which tends to occur around thermals. Essentially, the faster the wing, the more prone it is to collapse, even when flown by top pilots. The invisibility of the hazard adds to the threat; riding thermals is sometimes likened to canoeing down rapids without being

able to see the water. One of Britain's foremost pilots is Robbie Whittal, ex-hang-gliding and paragliding world champion, who etes as well as designing and test-flying paragliders for a living. Moments before the start of day two's race, in which a Frenchman was badly injured, he gave his views on the competition: "You've got to race oo the limit to be competitive. If you can use a wing which you think gives you an edge, you will. I'm really good, and over 150 of my flying bours each year are on prototype wings, hut even I can get caught out - so what chance have some of the others got? Standardisation of the wings we compete on is essential."

He later saw the accident take place and is in no doubt that the pilot would have stayed aloft with a less twitchy wing. Though it's of relatively minor consequence, compared to the injuries, there's also the competitive aspect: "Flying similar

better too," he continued, "At the moment it's a manufacturer's race."

finally to have brought the issue to a head, with a proposal from some of the leading competitors to the sport's governing body that only certified wings be admitted in competition, in time for next year's World Championships.

With the competitive side of paragliding looking for - and starting to receive - recognition, it deserves

pilots and there are bold pilots, but there are oo old, hold pilots.

Bernier (right), and also Patrick Berod (No 17, above) David Wootton



Gebrselassie plays safe on Golden League bounty

THE FILM has no plot no dialogue and no narration, but it certainly has a star. Haile Gehrselassie is the little Ethiopian distance runner who, by the age of 25, has set 14 world records, has won an Olympic and three world 10,000 metres titles, and now has had his life story turned into a movie. Such is Gebrselassie's dominance of world distance running, the silver screen is the closest he has come to any metal other than gold

Take-off at the European Championships

Endurance is described by its makers, a Disney subsidiary, as an ethnodrama: they wanted to make a documentary about an east African distance runner, and made their choice at the Atlanta Olympics. Young Geb. charming, as quick to laugh as he is to run. is probably the greatest distance runner ever to bestride the planet Gehrselassie was the obvious choice.

After the Games, the film crew spent four months in Asela, the small, mud-hut farming village where Gehrselassie grew up, and in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Now ready for an autumn release in America, according to one critic, who has seen a preview of the film, after about 30 minutes you've seen so

Peter Martin on the Ethiopian star who has turned his back on record chasing

desperately oeed a Perrier break, and it's hard not to begin swatting the flies away from your forehead.

Gebrselassie's life story is full of the great paradoxes of the moderoday African track star. A country of legendary wealth under the Queen of Sheba, Ethiopia is the second poorest nation in the world. By the age of 22, and although he could not drive, Gebrselassie owned two Mercedes Benz saloons yet remained a hero to the 51 million Ethiopians who try to exist on the country's average salary of just £80 a year.

His exact earnings are a closelyguarded trade secret, but Gebrselassie is probably the world's best paid athlete, commanding \$30,000 per race and earning in excess of \$1.5 million last season. Today he'll be hoping to hreak the bank in Monte Carlo, maintaining his claim on the \$1m bounty available to any athlete who goes through the seven-meet

Golden League undefeated. One of 10 children, the son of a simply, surrounded by brothers and

much dry, parched earth that you sheep farmer, it is said that Gehrselassie's distinctive running style, with one arm crooked, was forged when he was a child. In the mornings his strict father insisted he perform chores around the farm, and young Geb would then run the three miles across country to school. as fast as he could, knowing that any

lateness would be punished by

whacks on the hand from the school-"I was very afraid of that punishment," Gebrselassie says, "so I ran fast." At the end of the school day, to avoid being yelled at by his father as he waited for more help on the farm, Gebrselassie would run all the way home; his school books were

always tucked under his arm. Gebrselassie moves with great sensitivity between the opulence of the five-star hotels that accommodate the world's top athletes and the abject poverty of his homeland. "I live between the two worlds," he says. When in Addis Ababa, he lives

sisters. "You must act the way the people do," Gebrselassie says. "If my society is poor, I can't act rich. I have money, but I do not show it. I want

to remain part of my people."
Perhaps it is Gebrselassie's need to save for the future which has seen him change his racing attitude this summer. In the past three years his rivalry with Kenya's Daniel Komen has rewritten the record books in a similar manner to when Coe and Ovett attacked the 800 metres and mile records nearly 20 years ago. But this summer Gebrselassie seems to

have taken his foot off the gas. After breaking the 10,000m world record by more than five seconds at Hengelo trunning 26min 22.75sec. significantly at a meeting organised by his manager, Jos Hermens), and removing 0.38sec from the 5,000m mark in Helsinki (12:39.36), Gebrselassie has eschewed record chasing and therefore lucrative bonuses.

Instead, the Golden League appears to be his quest as he seems content to sit and kick, only doing just enough for victory. "I am sorry," he said after the 3,000m in Oslo, the first Golden League event a month with two laps to run, saving himself



Gebrselassie: Unbeaten so far

for a hlistering finish to ensure first place. The \$1m jackpot seems too

good a main chance to miss. Monte Carlo today is just the third stop on the golden merry-go-round. Gebrselassie is one of eight athletes with 100 per ceot records in the series so far, but performances in other major track meetings have been affected by the concentration on the Golden League. On Wednesday at Stockholm - oot a Golden League event - Marion Jones pulled out, citing injury, while Jonathan Edwards also limped away. If either do not compete in their events today, the share of the jackpot for those re-

maining, and winning, will grow. In a sport which probably only has four hankable world stars - Jones and Michael Johnson, Hicham El Guerrouj and Gebrselassie - there are eveo fewer athletes who can go the whole season unbeaten. Except, perago, when he dropped off record pace haps, Gehrselassie, and he has staked \$1m to prove he can.

Edwards ready to put injured left foot forward

JONATHAN EDWARDS, Britain's 16.99 metres, more than a metre triple jump world record-holder, looks certain to compete here today at the annual Grand Prix meeting at the Stade Louis II. If he does, his whole season may be at stake writes Peter Martin in Monte Carlo.

By competing, and risking aggravating the beel and ankle uries suffered in Stockholm oo Wednesday night, Edwards will be going against the advice of Linford Christie and Brendan Foster, who both counselled rest and recovery ahead of the championship challenges of the next month.

The heel injury on his left foot is similar to that which may have cost him his world title last year. The ankle on the same leg is badly swollen.

Edwards is Britain's best bet for a European gold medal in Budapest in 10 days' time. Yet if his injuries worsen by jumping this evening or in Zurich next Wednesday, the fear is that the former world champion may jeopardise his chances of claiming the European title which has so far eluded him.

His final jump oo Wednesday -

short of his world record-hreaking best - won the event by just 1cm, something Edwards described as "a minor miracle".

Bradfo

lebiolo or

But in what Edwards, 32, has described as "a season of multiple challenges", he obviously also wants to maintain his 12-competition unbeaten record, and his chance of scooping a share of the \$1m (£630,000) jackpot if he can win at all seven of the Golden League meetings. Edwards is one of eight athletes still in the hunt.

Others include Richam El Guerrouj, who heads the field for the 1500 metres, and Frankie Fredericks in perhaps the most competitive event of the summer so far, the men's 100

Today. Fredericks will be racing against three men all in sub-10sec form in the past week: Ato Boldon, of Trinidad, and the Canadians Bruny Surin and Donovan Bailey, Bailey, the Olympic champion, has suffered a lean year, losing his world title, something which damaged his pride. As ever, when the gun goes, there will be more than money at stake.

De Bruin to challenge test methods

BY ALAN MURDOCH in Dublin

MICHELLE DE BRUIN, the triple Olympic swimming champion, yesterday announced a head-on challenge to the four-year ban imposed oo her for allegedly tampering with a urine sample she pro-vided at her home in January

The ban would effectively end the 28-year-old's competitive career. Her appeal will be heard before the Court for Arhitration for Sport in Lausanne in four to six weeks' time.

On Thursday, the international swimming federation, Fina, said tests on the sample, carried out at the approved laboratory in Barcelona, indicated it had been manipulated not by a tester by but the swimmer, although Fina said the manner of manipulation remained uncertain. The fouryear suspension bars her from all national and international

In a spirited defence at a news conference she called here, De Bruin painted a picture of sports authorities engaged in a "conspiracy" to find under a cloud since she soared an athlete guilty of drug-taking in an effort to uphold their regulatory credentials.

She said she was convinced that Fina had made a concerted effort "to ensure that, by whatever method available to them, a ban was imposed." She said that punitive damages would be sought against Fina, accusing it of "a hlatant and mischievous" attempt to ruin

She added: "I think some of their [Fina] rules are really a shambles, and they have to protect themselves and that could be why they have reacted in the way they did and why they may use me as a scapegoat." De Bruin intends to cite pre-hearing comments made by the dop-ing control panel chairman, alleging that she and her hus-

hand were guilty as proof of bias. The swimmer, who won her Olympic medals in 1996 under her maiden name, Smith, claimed she was targeted "because I am married to this man," gesturing to Eric de Bruin, ber coach and former shot-putter, who was for a time suspended for alleged use of a banned substance The swimmer has been

up the world rankings after linking up with the Dutchman in 1993 and then taking her gold medals at Atlanta. De Bruin, flanked by her

lawyer, Peter Lennon, and her husband, set out a barrage of technical and legal arguments that they claimed showed Fina's ruling to be flawed. She will challenge the reliability of the test sample seal, alleging it would pop open when placed in boiling water, and could have been tampered with later.

Her solicitor said doping control forms for the January test were altered later and did not tally with the copies given to the swimmer, a discrepancy "of crucial importance" if testers' procedures were to be corroborated, he said.

Lennon said: "No one has produced any proof that Michelle has physically tam-pered with this sample, and that's what's required under the

De Bruin's camp accuse Fina of breaching its own rule, putting a burden of proof on Fina where an athlete has not tested positive for a banned substance. More abstruse was Lennon's assertion that it was



Michelle de Bruin launches her counter-attack against her ban at a news conference in Dublin

technically impossible for a the personal toll taken by the sample with a specific gravity reading of 1.05, as shown in the Fina's manipulation charges sample provided by De Bruin, to have contained alcohol. The swimmer also said the Barcelona laboratory had used test methods not approved by the sport's authorities.

controversy. She said that when arrived at her home on 27 April "my husband couldn't bring himself to tell me, and he collapsed in the house twice. When he finally told me I think I cried for two hours." She flatly rejected sugges-

tions that the marriage was under strain. "I know I have never done anything to put either myself or my family or my country to shame," she said. The Irish public in her home village and radio callers showed a sympathetic response, many noting no proof had emerged that she took any banned substance

During two hours of media interrogation, she still managed a smile. Reminded of Bill Clinton's congratulations to her in 1996, she was asked if she had any tips for him in his present

She replied: "I wouldn't be qualified to offer him any

Bradford and Leeds look to put season back on course

RUGBY LEAGUE

By DAVE HADFIELD

WHEN MATTHEW Elliott and his Bradford side were jeered off the field at Odsal last week it was the end of the honeymoon for Super League's most spectacular success story.

It was not just a case of matters even more than the result. Bradford have made a better hand of promoting and marketing the game than any other club, hut, as another commercial manager said recently: "If your team's crap, you don't

The Bulls aren't that bad yet but they badly need a home win tomorrow over Hull to get the bitter taste out of their mouths. "It certainly wasn't my high

who has doubts over Paul Deacon's shoulder injury and might promote his two new signings. Nathan McAvoy and Neil Harmon, to the starting team.

Leeds also need to get back on track after suffering their third defeat of the season at Castleford last week. Graham Murray has worries over Marc Glanville and Paul Sterling, but natural disappointment after should have Adrian Morley another defeat; it knocked a back in his starting line-up. He that it is the experience that hacks after expressing disappointment with lestyn Harris and Graham Holroyd in those roles last week.

Their opponents Salford are likely to give a debut to their new Australian, Shane Kenward, even though his delayed flight arrived yesterday morning.

St Helens are likely to be unchanged at Warrington, who have major problems at fullback with Lee Penny carrying an ankle injury and his repoint as a coach," said Elliott, placement last week, Dave winners of the Harry Jepson ing in Sydney later this mooth. | plication to have his licence

Highton, out with a damaged foot. Their veteran winger, Mark Forster, returns after Arguably the biggest game

of the weekend, in terms of the sport's long-term development, is in the unlikely setting of Cheltenham today, where the South Norfolk Saints and the Crawley Jets meet in the first Grand Final of the Rugby League Conference.

Saints) and Crawley are two Zealand will go ahead as towns where the game has thrived this year. The Saints, however have failed in an attempt to have the match postponed. One of their forwards. Micky Byrne, is getting married and three other players will also be missing because of the

That gives Crawley - an amalgam of students, teachers from all the major rugby leagueand workers at Gatwick Airport - the chance to become the first work out a solution at a meet-

Trophy, and to claim a place in next season's Challenge Cup.
Their inspiration is Rod

Hammond, a Kiwi who has broken off from travelling the world to play for them this season, and there will be three coach-loads of their supporters in Cheltenham to see whether they can take advantage of the Saints' fixture clash. The Rughy Football League

has affirmed that this autumn's planned, Doubts were raised by the New Zealand RL president. Gerald Ryan, who is angry that several Super League clubs are set to prevent Englishbased Kiwis playing in two Tests against Australia on the eve of the British series. That would contravene international rules but representatives

playing nations are hoping to

in title defence against Bean returned following a one-year June 1997. Nevada regulators

BOXING

EVANDER HOLYFTELD sets the ball rolling on a week of heavyweight collisions when he defends the International Boxing Federation title on 19 September against the top-ranked con-

tender Vaughn Bean in Atlanta. Holyfield, who will be making his first appearance in the ring since November, also holds the World Boxing Association version of the title, but will not out it on the line against Bean at the Georgia Dome in Holy-

The champion had been scheduled to climb back into the ring in June against Britain'a Henry Akinwande but that fight was called off after the challenger withdrew when tests revealed be had hepatitis.

Holyfield will be the overwhelming favourite to retain his IBF crown after two victories over the shamed Mike Tyson. who is still waiting for a decision from the Athletic Control Board in New Jersey on his anoan for biting Holyfield's ear. Holyfield's last defence was

against Michael Moorer: Bean has won 29 of his 30 professional fights but is not expected to present the champion with too many problems.

Holyfield's fight will take place seven days before Lennox Lewis defends the

WBC version against Croatia's Zeliko Mavrovic in Connecticut and Herbie Hide's mandatory WBO beavyweight title defence against Germany's Sport Village.

Members of the atate Athletic Control Board have refused to say when they'll make a decision on whether to award a boxing licence to Tyson.

After emerging from a threehour private session at the Richard J Hughes Justice Complex on Thursday night, boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard offered "no comment" several times to questions re-

garding a decision. Tyson, 32, has not fought

Holyfield to shake off the rust

revoked his boxing licence and

said he could reapply after one

year, but Tyson opted to apply

for a licence in New Jersey in-Hazzard, board chairman Gerald Gormley and board member Gary Shaw reviewed Tyson's application and deliberated during the 10am to 1pm closed-door meeting, said Paul Loriquet, the spokesman for the attorney general's office.

The three also reviewed lic for and against Tyson and sought legal advice from assistant attorney general Michael Haas, who participated in the executive session.

Mark Juliano, president and CEO of Caesars Atlantic City said that awarding Tyson a hcence could have a tremendous financial impact on Atlantic City. "It would probably depend on who he fought but generally a heavyweight championship fight is the biggest draw that we do," he said.

ton 0 Hyde 2; Guiseley 0 Leeds XI 2; Mat-lock 1 Derby XI 3; Lancaster 2 Burnley XI 2; Selby 1 Emley 2; Bashley 0 Southampton XI 3; Mossley 2 Oldham XI 1; Coleraine 1 Derry City 2.

GOLF

GOLF

BUCK OPEN (Grand Bisner, Mikhingam)
Leading Birst robund scores (US unless
stated): 65 J. Lewis, B Chamblee: 66 V
Singh (Fig.), O Hart, G Halberg, 67 C Pery. S McCaron, C Rose, P Buchmar, JP Hayes,
B Thisy, Khones, C DiAndron; 68 P Scarkons16. J Shuman, J Acosca, J Riegger, P Goydos,
R Mediste, B Getherger, C Barlom, Selected: 70 R Allerby (Aus), J Dazid (Japan), S
Bidington (Aus); 71 T Woods, T Dodds,
Nom); 72 O Frose (SA), G Weiter, Miller,
Miller, J C Woods, T Dodds,
Nom); 72 O Frose (SA), G Weiter, Miller,
Gilameng (M2); 75 W Grady (Aus),
WPFGA CHAMPHORSHIP OF EUROPPE:
(Gilameng less) Leading First round
scores (Bis or Iri maless stated); 71
M-L de Lorend (Fr); C Marthew, T Johnson: I Timing (Den); P Scener (Swe); S
Croce (R), 72 S Gustafson (Swe); S
Croce (R), 72 S Gustafson (Swe); S
Prosser, L Davies; H Alfrestson (Swe); S
Prosser, L Davies; H Alfrestson (Swe); S
Froser: L Davies; H Alfrestson (Swe); S
Froser: L Davies; H Alfrestson (Swe); S
Froser: J Crower, L Hackney, J Moodie,
D Barnard, 74 T Fischer (Ger); H Dobson;
L Navarro (Sp); C Duffy, M McCay, S Efficson (Swe); S Farron (NZ); M Burstom (Swe); I
Souisby V Stensard (Mar), O Reld, A Berg
[Swe); S Farron (NZ); M Burstom (Swe);
L Greve (Den); C Schmitt (Fr); S Strudwick, N Fink (Aus), P Mirght, A-M Ruight
(Aus); L Klanger, L Pholo (US); M
Lurm (Aus); E Aron-Quelhas (Fr); C Dionah (Aus); K Nebrornit, L Robotto
(Bel); M Lojdahi (Swe), 78 S DiCkens; J
Crayles (Aus); A Laraneta (Sp); K Poppmeier (Aus); L Kreutz (Fr); R Lautens (Swe);
F Broele-Boseff (Fr); N Moule; L Dermote, 79
A Hardre (Bel); C Louw (SA); R Corriedo
(SO); S Bermett, N Murrot; A Pestana (SA);
L West (US); E Asanchez (Sp); S Musigh
(Aus); L Karyles (Leboux (Fr); R Lautens (Swe);
R Nagent S Dollongeville (Fr); " A Laing;
A Padlord; G Stensart S Hook V Van Ryciegum (Bel); E Knuth (Sp); M Arnuti (Sp),
Germotes annoteur

I CE H O C K E Y

Hungry Hingis too strong for Kruger

MARTINA HINGIS, the defending champion and top seed, crushed South Africa's Joannette Kruger 6-1, 6-3 in 49 min-utes on Thursday to reach the semi-finals of the Toshiba Classic in Carlsbad, California.

"I nisved her in Key Biscayne and it was quite easy," said Hingis, who beat Kruger 6-0. 6-0 in their only previous meeting five months ago. "She doesn't miss too much but she doesn't have as fast a game as Monica [Seles] or Lindsay [Davenport]. It gives me enough time to get into a

rhythm." Hingis needed just 18 minutes to take the first set, but Kruger offered more resis-tance in the second. "Once you win the first set 6-1, you kind of lose your concentration and try to make some stupid shots which sometimes don't work out," she said.

While Hingis moved into the semi-finals, the Americans Devemoort and Venus Williams and France's Nathalie Tauziat

reached the quarter-finals. The Second-seeded Davenport, fresh from winning the Bank of the West title last week against Williams, beat her compatriot Lisa Raymond 6-1, 6-4 while third-seeded Williams defeated Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-2. The eighth seed and Wimbledon runner-up Tauziat dismissed the American qualifier

Amy Frazier 6-3, 3-6, 6-1. Davemort did not play her best termis against Raymond despite a straight-sets victory. "I knew going in I hadn't lost to her before but she's a very dangerous player regardless of past results," said Davenport, who now has a 6-0 record

Tim Henman was left frustrated as his third-round match with Spain's Albert Costa in the Du Maurier Open was washed out by rain in Toronto oo Thursday. Only one match started before the downpour arived as Russia's fourth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov won his first three games against the American, Malivai Washington.

TODAY'S NUMBER

30

The percentage increase in sales of season tickets for the 18 First Division football clubs in France, following the World

Cup triumph.

Nebiolo outlines global anti-drugs strategy

RACING RESULTS

PRIMO NEBIOLO, the president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, has called for a worldwide antidoping programme, using uniform strategies and procedures across all sports.

Nebiolo, who caused controversy last mouth after criticising tennis, cycling and volleyball authorities for refusing to sign an Olympic ac-

ASCOT

2. High Carry Pac Eddery 8-1 co fav

14-1 Ivory's Grab Hire, Mouschole, Rush-

cutter Bay [Sth). Swynford Dream (6th).

16-1 Eastern Prophets, Hiltons Executive.

can Coustn. Forgotten Times. Purple

Fling. 25-1 Kram, 33-1 Arry Martin. Le-

22 rate, 1, 7, hd. 7., 7., (Winner chest-

nut gelding by Royal Academy out of

Thirsk for Trilby Racing). Tote: 59 10:

£2.80, £2.70, £6.60, £4.30, DF: £31.80

1. MISTER BENJAMIN I Reid 16-1

3. Nautical Star It Hills 10-1

Also ran: 11-4 jt for Captam's Log (4ch).

4-1 Party Romance, 11-1 Brandon Jack

(5th), 12-1 Albari (6th), Titta Ruffa, 26-1 Edon Heights.

9 rad. 14, 11/4, 11/4, 21/4, hd. (Boy gelding by Polish Pornol out of Frau Ahuyen

rante, trained by 5 Woods at Newmarket

for Mrs Julie Choy). Total £15.80; £3.00,

£1.60, £3.50, DF: £29.40, CSF: £55.23. Tricast: £436.31. Trifecta: £1,165.30.

K Fallon 11-4 k fav

ofric, Superchief, 40-1 Spender,

CSF: £53.91 Tocast; £1,167.49.

3.05:)1m 2f handicap)

2. Premier Generation

gsheet. That Man Again, 20-1 Amer-

__Airx Greaves 8-1 co (av

chworth Belle A Daty 20-1

5.30: /Sf handicapt

anti-drugs procedures, repeat- according to equal procedures ed his belief that all sports federations should join the anti-doping effort in a letter to the Italian daily sports newspaper, Gazzetta dello Sport.

"We must work out new measures for blocking this dangerous moral drift," he said. "In my opinion the first measure is to elaborate a unique list of doping substances for all sports. The second action should provide random tests in all sports...

Also ran: 2-1 fav Emplane [4th], 8-1 As-

cot Cyclone, 9-1 Lidwiga (5th), 25-1 Dramond White (6th), 33-1 Sukoon.

2 rate, 21/1, 11/4, 1/1, 21/1, 3. [Winner chesnut filly by Machievellian out of Thouast. trained by A Stewart at Newmarket for (Hamdan Al Makcoum), Total £4.00:

£2.10, £1.50, £1.60, DF: £14.90, CSF:

Also ran: 11-1 Seyvasi [5th), 12-1 Styl-ish Storm (4th), 16-1 Cambrea Firstove

7 ran. 4, 21/, 21/, 6, sh-hd, (Winner bay

this by Be My Chief out of Spriner, trained by Miss Gay Kelleway at Whitcombe for (T Tran). Toes: £5.20; £2 10, £1.50, DF:

4.40: (6f 2yo filles maiden stakes)

1. ITLAK Dettori 2-1 Fav

Daniella Ridge. Dane O'Nelli 12-1

Also ran: 4-1 Rimba (4th), 11-2 Weaver Of Words (Sth), 12-1 Comprehension

6 ram. 1/., sh-hd, 11/., 11/1. 1/1. (Winner boy

Ally by A.P. Indy out of Mashparit, trained

by Saeed bin Surcor at Newmarket for Godolphin) Tobas E2.20; E1.50, E2.40.

(6th), 33-1 Lady Dealer.

£6.60, CSF: £12.04.

2. Tebyaan

.....L Dettori 2-1

accepted by everybody." Nebiolo's comments come in the wake of several high-profile drugs scandals in sport.

Officials of several teams competing in the Tour de France were arrested and their rooms searched following allegations related to performanceenhancing drug use. Last week, two US athletes,

Randy Barnes and Dennis cord which aimed to unify and tests that are carried out drugs. Then the Irish Olympic tection," Nebiolo wrote.

2. State Fair A Clark 14-1
3. Tiger Lake P Doe 33-1
Also raw 4-1 Girl Token (slipped up).
Moon Colony (Sch). 11-2 Pennys From
Hexnen (Ath). 8-1 Assured Gamble, 10-1

Heaven (4th), 8-1 Assured Gamble, 10-1 Iharchmister (5th).

S ran, 21/2, 5h-hd, 21/2, rk, 15. [Winner buy gelding by Warning out of Horseshoe Reef, trained by E Alston at Longton for Valley Paddocks Rucing Limited]. Roset 63.60; £1.60. £2.60. £6.50. DF: £24.90. CSF: £40.55. Tricast: £1.032.28. Jackpoet Not work £25.819.35 cirrled for-ward to Ascot bridgy.

ward to Ascot today.
Placepot: E258.50. Ceadpot: E16.20.
Place 6: E95.47. Place 5: E26.57.

SALISBURY

2.20: 1. A TOUCH OF FROST [0 5weeney] 66-1; 2. Street Sen 20-1; 3. La isla Bealta 9-1, 14 ran, 2-1 fev Brit-

La issue statement of the Margarson, Newmarkett.
Total: E52,10: £13,20, £5,20, £4,90, DF; £485,10, CSF: £973,68, NR: Desert Song.

Stardelow.

2.Sc: 1. RUDH WHIGHT [F Norton] 8-1;

2. Checolore Box 11-2; 3. Willd Colo-elat Boy 5-1. S. ram. Evens law Grossenor Spirit (68h), Sh-dx. 2½; (At Fetherston-Godiey, East (Isley), Takes: 69.20; £2.70, £1.20, £1.70, DF: £26.10. CSF: £45.38, Tricaser E221 &1.

BRGSE 2221.41.
3.25: 1. RNASLAS (J. O. Smith) 11-1: 2.
Brief Escapade 2-1 pt fov; S. Hadayik
4-1, 6 rian. 2-1 pt fov Marabeta (6rh) %.
1/4. (B Hills, Lambotan). Robe: \$10.20:
£3,90, £2.70. DF; £39.30. CSF: £31.44.

3.55: 1. VENTUAL REALITY (5 Sanders) A-1; 2. Bomb Alaska 7-1; 3. Swinging The Bives 3-1, 5 ras, 13-8 fav Shock-

er [5th], 3, 1½, () Tofics, Newmarket). Tota: £4,80: £2,00, £2,50, DF: £18 20. CSF, £27,4S.

Tricase £221.41.

5.15; (Im 4f handicap)

1. WARNING REEF

champion swimmer, Michelle de Bruin, was banned for four years after allegedly tampering with a test sample.

Nebiolo also called for more co-operation between sporting and civil authorities, to avoid long and costly trials initiated hy athletes opposing suspensions following positive tests.

"Rights of the citizen-athlete must be guaranteed, but we have often the impression... of Mitchell, tested positive for an excess of nationalistic pro-

4.30: 1. CARRATHRA (5 Sanders) 7-2 for: 2. Broadmay Michody 9-2: 3. Heanward by Miss 14-1. 9 ras. V. htd. (C Wat, New-market). Toba: E4.60: E1.90, E1.30, E2.70 DF: E12.00. CSF. E15.91. Tricast: E162.27. NR: Soviet Gat. 5.00: 1. WHATEVER'S RIGHT (W Hutchis Col. 1. WHATEVER'S RIGHT (W Hutchis Col. 1.5.1.2. Right Res. 12.1.2.2. Sept. 16.1.2.1.2.

50(1) 16-1; 2. Big Ben 12-1; 3. Silver Lis-ing 11-1, 15 ran, 7-4 to Meranto (Sidt), 3. 1/4, Mi Ustre, East Garsani, Teast E17-40; 53-90, E2-30, E2-40, DP. E116-70, CSP. E177-2A Tricss: E2,069-56, NPC Royal Blue.

Place 6: £10,915.42, Place 5: £519.31.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10: 1, SOTORHAM (A McCarthy) 4-1, 2. See Me 7-2 fav; 3. Down Filipa 7-1. 3 ran. 3, 1. [P Felgate]. Toket E4.00: 61.20. E2.30, E2.80. DF; £10.50, CSF; £16.97. Tricast: £86.03.

2.40: 1, CABLE BEDIA BOY (R Mullen) 13-2; 2, Hearthyards Jake 4-1; 3, Risky Way 11-2, 9 ren. 7-2 for Rolling Ro. (Eth). 3, 7. [5 Kettlewell). Toots £9.10; £2.90, £1.10. £1.30. OF: £17.50, CSF: £35.08. Tricast: £150.89.

Tricast: £150.89.
3.15: 1. ICHEMAN SPRING (J.F. Egon) 8-11
5ay; 2. Riomes 7-1; 3. Selegman 7-2. 6
ran, 2%, 7. (Lord Hursington). Rose £1.50:
£1.30. £2.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £6.22.
3.45: 1. PASS THE REST (G. Hind) 5-1;
2. HR The Spot 11-4 far; 3. Zebakia
8-1, 7 ran, 4. %, (J. Nosedo). Rose £6.80:
£2.30. £2.20. DF: £13.40. CSF: £18.33.

\$2.30, \$2.20. DF. \$13.40, CSP. \$18.33.
4.20.7, PREDE OF RESTORY OF Farming)
7-2.2. Thelear's Surprise 12-1; 3. Going
Places 12-1, 8 ram. 11-8 law Tangerine Pyer. 2½, 1, C. Thormson, 180er \$6.00; \$1.60.
\$2.60, \$2.10. DF. \$59.10. CSP. \$63.46.
4.50: 1, CHARLIE'S GOLD |M Mathers)
25-1; 2, Mashael 11-8 for; 3. Riskry Girl
20-1, 12, man. 1½, 2, (A Kellewoy), Rotes
£33.00; £3.30, £1.40, £7.10. DF:
£100.10. CSP. \$57.03. Tricast: £749.06.
**Marrones £116.60. Outsideots: £19.10.

DE: E4.054.20. Des

SPORTING DIGEST AUSTRALIAN RULES

Two of Melbourne's leading teams, Western Buildogs and St Kilda, will play an exhibition match at The Owal on 10 October, The Buildogs are currently leading this season's AFL competition, while St Kilda lost to Adetaide in last wen's Grand Final. delaide in last year's Grand Final. FL (Round 19): North Melbourne 113 risbane 86.

BADMINTON English badminton has received a £4,1m National Lottery grant. The money will go towards developing the national centre in Milton Keynes to Olympic standard. to Olympic standard.

BASEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kansas City 8 Min-nesota 7; Texas 7 Boston 4, Poszponed: Seattle v Detroit. Seattle v Detroit.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: NY Mets 9 San
Francisco 8; Montreat 9 Los Angeles 0; Colorado 5 Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 3 San
Diego 2; Adanto 5 Cincimati 0.

BASKETBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Actions): Quarter Risal: Russia B2 Lithuania 67. 9th-12th place play-offs; Brazil 76 Por-to Rico 64: Australia 88 Canada 71.

BOWLS

WOMEN'S ALL ENGLAND CHAMPYORSHIPS (Royal Learnington Spa): Two Whood Singles: Quantres-finals M Cristonas (Cambridge Chesterton) by A Boothroyd (Blackpool) 16-11: M Woods (Sparrows Nest) by P Clark (Twerton Borough) 17-10: C Edmondson (Slockron, Penrith) by P Carr (Borstal, Kent) 13-12; P Bacon (Brocknell) by R Spetch (Poole Pk) 14-13: Semi-finals: Oristmas by Woods 17-5: Edmonsdson by Bacon 16-7. Pinal: Christmas by Edmondson 15-11. Patrix Quantrer-final: W Anderson and O Woodley (Rodbourne Cheney) by M Kemp and P Sutton (Atheries) 20-13. (GREDNALLS WATERLOO (Blackpool) Second roweds 5 Boston (Oldham) by R Almond (Chorley) 21-17: P Dorn-Doncan (Ashton in Maler field) by I Tumer (Preston) 21-20: O Mitchell (Preston) by C Johnson (Cambol) (21-13: L Cavil (Vidisoff) by A Knowles (Botton) 21-10: M Eastham (Chorley) by B Cauli (Watsall) 21-18: O Wootnon (Oldham) by T America (Indisor (Indisor) (Indisor) (Indisor) 11-19: P Hawkes (Preston) by T Dimmock (Preston) 21-17: J Hoskem (Bolton) by R Norcross (Preston) 21-11: J Hoskem (Bolton) by E Aw Processon (Preston) 21-15: M Craig (Oldham) by A Maldin (Falsworth) 24-11: R Downham (Blackpool) by T Thermock (Preston) 21-17: J Stamway (Stoke) by E Law (Preston) 21-18: (Writehad (Bispham) by J McCaul (Leigh) 21-13:

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP (Arr) Sh-SCOTTISH CHAMPHONISHIP (Agr.) Staggles, second round: O Gordon (Mearns) bt R Graham (Clairemont) 21-16: O Ross (Crosshouse) bt G Campbell (Maybole) 21-12: W Wildood (Grifford) bt J Girnour (East Wearns) 21-16: O McCormick (Mercorle) bt S Murphy (Blacklandmil) 21-19; W Peacock (Eskmill) bt J Robertson (Monquisitrer) 21-17; R Logan (Kritiston) bt G Osborne (Coatbridge) 21-14, 5 Stevenson FOOTBALL

Bradford City have signed the Port Vale forward, Lee Mills, for a record goals in 94 appearances for Vale. The Aberdeen manager, Alex Miller, has confirmed that he will continue as assistant to the Scotland man-ager, Craig Brown. Miller currently combines his duties at Pittodrie with his deputy role for the national

The former Sunderland striker, Craig Russell, has joined Tranmere on a three-month loan deal from Man-Paul Alsaker, a Norwegian-born

midfielder, is joining Stockport Coun-ty from Flora Tallin in Estonia un-der the Bosman ruling. Dundee United have completed the free transfer of the 31-year-old French defender, Bernard Pascual.

from Le Havre on a two-year contract. Mark Robins, the 29-year-old former Manchester United striker, has left the Spanish Second Division side, Orense, Spanish Second Division side, Orense, to join the Greek Cup holders, Panionios, on a one-year contract. Reading have completed the signing of two Dutch players, Peter van der Kwaak and Eiroy Kromheer, on two-year contracts. Van der Kwaak, a goalkeeper, has signed on a free transfer from Dordrecht, while Kromheer, a centre-back, cost £150,000 from Zwotle. Plymouth Argyle have signed the Old-ham Athletic striker, Shaun Mc-Carthy, for a nominal fee. It is his second spell at Home Park.

Celtic have agreed three-year con-tracts with two Italian trialists, Alessandro Sanne, 18, from Vitervese and Marco Cortani, 19, from Roma. Mick Harford has announced his re-

Mick Harford has announced his retirement from a playing career spanning 20 years and 10 different clubs. The 39-year-old forward will now concentrate solely on his coaching duties with his current club, Wimbledon.

REARRINNIGED FORTUNES: PR Carling Premiership: The 24 Sept Manchester little & Liverpool (from 26 Sept.). National Football Lengue: Fri 9 Oct. Leyton Orient & Exter City Irom 10 Oct; Worthington Cap: Wed 19 Aug. Crystal Palace & Torquey (from 18 Aug.).

MAJOR LIENGUE SOCCERN New England 3 San Jose C: Los Angeles 6 Colorado 1; Tampa Bay 3 Mismi 1.

PRENDUX MATCHES [Thursday]: Accrington Scanley 9 Southport 4; Northcrington Samley 9 Southport 4; North-wood 0 Chelsea XI 5; Lincoln Urd 2 Sheffield Urd XI 2; Grays 3 Purfleet 1: Affreton 2 Sheffield Wednesday XI 2; Fibr-

Schulter, a 26-year-old winger from Las Vegas Thunder. His signing means the Bees have now reached their ilm-it of six players with work permits. MOTOR SPORTS

ICE HOCKEY

Bracknell Bees have signed Paxton

MOTOR SPORTS
MOTOR CYCLE MEMS BRITISH SUPENBRIE CHARDPONISHP (Knockhill)
Leading positions afour practice rounds
18 and 14 (68 unless stated): 1 ?
Boyles (Mus) GSE Ducari, 51.595sec) [av
90.70mph; 2 N McKerzie, Cockury's Boost
Yamaha, 51.686; 3 / Reynotics, Red Bull
Ducan, 51.972; 45 Histon, Carbury's Boost
Yamaha, 51.059; 5 M Levelyin, CSE Ducan,
51.374; 6 C Walter, Kawasoki, 52.044; 7
M Rutter, Honda, 52.605; 8 5 Emmer, Red
Bull Ducan, 52.695; 9 1 Haydon, Sony Soziald,
52.915, 19 1 McPherson, Kawasaki,
52.915.

RUGBY LEAGUE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP (Round 22): Melbourne 20 Cronulla 10; Adelaide 10 Manly 32.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The European Cup and European Shield tournaments will now kick-off on 19 September, following the de-cision of leading French clubs to play after all. Cardiff and Swansea are expected to follow suit, and with support for an alternative competition collapsing, English clubs must now decide whether to reconsider their decision not to take part.

SNOOKER S N O O K E R

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPRONSTIP (Phymouth) First qualifying
rotud (Eng timless stated): M Husnu
(Cyp) to D McGlinchey (Iri] 5-4: R Hun (Fin)
bt J Younger (Aus) 5-2: A Carter bt M
Weirmann (Neth) 5-1: A Gunnell bt A Teranenon (Thai) 5-1: B Prinches bt M Cutajar [Maka) 5-2: K Heigsson (see) bt O Leary
(Iri) 5-3: P Detsemme (Bel) bt M Hallett
5-2: O Limburg bt K Secrets (Can) 5-2:
G Natale (Can) bt G Lees 5-2: S Reardon
bt B Reicher (Can) 5-1. H Tuersun (Chna) bt L Robinson 5-1.

SPEEDWAY PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 56 Holl 34,

SOUASH MERRIEL LYNCH WORLD JUNIOR MER'S CHAMPIONSKEP (Princeton)
Converse finals (BH Ong [Mail) by M Abbase (Eg) 2-9 5-5 9-0 9-0, M Hussain (Pak) bt A Grant (Eng) 9-4 1-9 9-3 9-3; Nick Matchew (Eng) by L Jemmett (Eng) 9-4 9-4 7-9 9-4; W El Hendy (Eg) bt M Zaman (Pak) 9-2 9-6 9-2.

SWIMMING

Helsinki will host the 2000 European swimming, diving and synchronized swimming championships, Euro-pean swimming's governing body an-nounced yesterday.

TENNIS TENNIS
GROLSCH OPEN (Amsterdam) Querber finals: M Norman (Swe) br G Slanco (Sp) 6-2 6-4: M Zabaleta (Avg) br S Dosedel (C Rep) 2-6 7-6 7-6.
TOSHINA CLASSEC (Carisbod, California) Deserver-finals M Hingis (Swit) bt J Kruper [SA] 6-1 6-3.
SATELLITE TOURNAMENT [Timber of greater-finals (QB) miless stated]: C ingham [GS] bt D Ward (GB) 6-4 6-4: M Blue (I/S) bt D MacManara (Aus) 4-6 7-5 6-3. C Edmondson bt S Potak (I/S) 6-3 7-6. M Le bt Edmondson 4-6 6-2 6-3. Le bt Edmondson 4-6 6-2 6-3. Momens seami-finals: M Ariha [Rus) bt L Naquashband 6-2 6-2. Coombes bt L Naquashband 6-2 fe-2. Coombes bt L Naquashband 6-2 fe-2 fe-3 L Naquashband 6-2 fe-3 fe-3 L Naquashband 6-2 fe-3 L Naq

Overcome by fear of the drop



BLOFELD

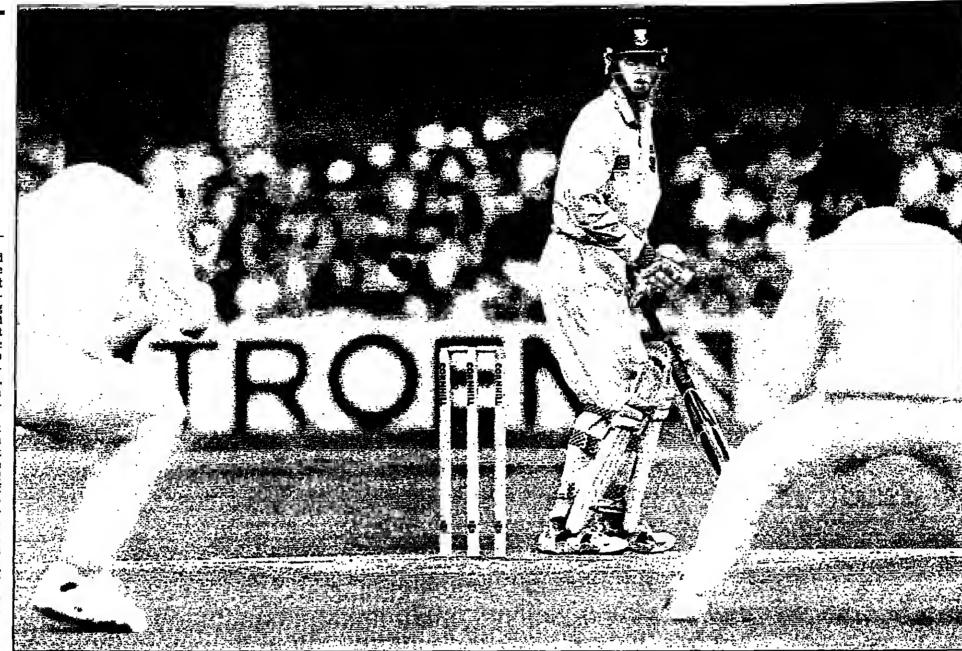
AT HEADINGLEY

IN MID-AFTERNOON England dropped three catches in the space of 22 balls. In any Test match, let alone one of this importance, this is a horrifying statistic and it was not helped when a fiendisbly difficult chance was dropped by Alec Stewart, diving in front of slip soon after tea when his opposite number. Hansie Cronie. was on 32. Cronje had been dropped earlier - one of the hattrick - when he was 20.

Is it just a coincidence that these catches went down in a most unattractive rash, or is it a symptom of a wider malaise and, if so, what? England had stuck to their task well, even if the ball didn't always stick in the fielders' bands, and had every reason to think they might even gain a small first-innings lead.

Jonty Rhodes, who made an important 37 in 39 balls which belped lift the pressure off South Africa at a crucial stage, and Cronje were dropped twice in all. Rhodes always gave the bowlers a chance by the way be went for his strokes and he was likely to get himself out, but be is a dangerous man and, for England's well-being, his end could not come too soon.

Cronje is a different problem and it always needs a craftily placed depth-charge to dispose of him. While he is still around. South Africa know that all is not lost. It goes without saying, that the cricket was tense and vibrant on an overcast day and in cooditions which were never



Gerhardus Liebenberg, the South African opening batsman, edges into the waiting hands of Graeme Hick at Headingley yesterday

one interesting feature in common; they were all dropped by players who are not wholly sure of keeping their place in the side. Mark Ramprakash missed one above his head at square leg when Rhodes pulled at a Darren Gough delivery, having taken a much harder

Graeme Hick was the culprit went down in those 22 balls had at second slip when, one run

Dominic Cork and found the edge - it was not the hardest of chances. The first of the three, and the most important of all. had been put down at third slip by Nasser Hussain when Cronje drove at Cork. The ball travelled quickly but it was straightforward enough.

the second innings. Ramprakash, on the other hand, is more secure but he is still not at a man's confidence. scoring the weight of runs he should, and those that he does are teeming with insecurity.

It may seem wrong to suggest that Hussain, the vice-captain these past two years, does Hick's place in the side is in not have a secure place, and that obvious jeopardy unless he is probably true. Nonetheless, in

later, Rhodes played forward to does something remarkable in among his hig innings, he main job it is to score runs - will makes far too many low scores, and this can only whittle away

> In the sbort term, Hussain is more in danger of losing his position at No 3 in the batting order than his place in the side. It would be surprising, all the same, if his lack of consistency is not playing on his mind. All fear of failure raise its head in three of these players - whose the split-second between the

be eager to impress, apprebensive of more failures.

All three dropped important catches. Was this also coincidental, or was it that they were guilty of trying too hard? Perhaps they were so eager to impress that it affected their focus on the moment, or did the

ball leaving the bat and going

held a staggerer at mid-wicket and Hick a good one earlier on may be thought to explode this theory before it even gets off the ground. But why do good, reliable and hrilliant fielders fear of failure raise its head in drop catches like this when

Just before the close, however, Ed Giddins proved too quick for the Middlesex opener and Justin Langer was bowled

Blackwell applies pressure on Surrey

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN at The Oval Surrey v Derbyshire

SURREY'S DECISION not to enforce the follow-on could yet hackfire after they made a right mess of things in second time around. The decision was based on common sense and a good deal of sporting psychology. Adam Hollioake, the Surrey captain, was clearly none too keen to keep his bowlers toiling away in serious heat with the risk of exhausing go for it and on the Derbyshire turns just enough the other way spinner, Ian Blackwell, who

with ease. And there was the prospect of piling up enough runs to present the opposition with a daunting and seemingly insurmountable task.

But five of the first six of Surrey's second-innings wickets falling as a result of careless, even irresponsible, shots when they had increased their advantage by barely 100 left them looking pretty sick.

Still, to succeed you bave to

do have Saglain Mushtag. Although pace has account-

have fallen, much may depend on bow well the Pakistan Test off-spinner performs today. He battled for just over two hours certainly posed problems for by the time he was finally Derbyshire as they surrendered meekly shortly after to dish out some treatment to lunch yesterday. He mesmerised them with his mystery ball, the one that is delivered like his orthodox off-spin but

with the rest of his armoury. The only Derbyshire player

ed for the bulk of the wickets to to provide any kind of resistance was their summer signing, Robin Weston, who had prised loose. He danced down Saglain, only to miss the ball and be stumped well out of his ground for 37.

Derbyshire's slow left-arm

later in the day when it was their turn again. He had Adam Hollioake for a second time, cutting to Michael May at backward point, while a little earlier Nadeem Shahid had watched helplessly, after dropping the bat on the ball, as the missile trickled on to his stumps and

dislodged a bail. Kevin Dean, having bad the opener Ian Ward caught down the leg side by Karl Krikken, and finished well shy of the sub-from this match.

them and allowing Derbyshire showing there should be plenty to surprise even the best of picked up five wickets in the then tempted Alistair Brown stantial innings Surrey retoknock off the 194-run arrears of runs in the tank, and Surrey batsmen, and flummoxed them first innings, appeared to be into an inadequate pull which quired of him, top-edging an atcausing Surrey some problems saw him caught in the deep, again May was the fielder. With Phil DeFreitas doing his hit by who has been out of sorts all having Jon Batty caught chipping to mid-on for the first of His form with the bat has been May's three catches, Surrey scratchy, his performances were struggling to hang on to their edge.

Ben Hollioake, who had

It was a shame for Hollioake,

season one way or another with the ball - until yesterday patchy.

If the Derbyshire batsmen played an instrumental part in use the two things that Surrey's Derbyshire's downfall with a men failed signally to employcareer-best return of 4 for 36, their heads and their feet - they began tentatively with the bat could yet salvage something

Britannic Assurance

Surrey v Derbyshire

Championship

THE OVAL (Day 2 of 4): Surrey (7 pts) are leading Derbyshire (4 pes) by 314 rups with 4 second-in

SURREY - First Indiags 333 (Brown 132, Blockwell 5-DERBYSHIRE - First lankage Overalght 46-2 **Arst Ingines Coard**

The same of the sa				
Runs	65	45	BK	M
R M S Weston or Basty b Mushrag 37	0	4	105	13
K.) Barnett b Bicknett	Q	•	46	É
M.E. Curvail h.B.C. Hallhouke	Q	0	21	2
I D Blackwell c Bicknell b B C Hotlioake10	0	2	20	2
11K Al Krikken a Snahid b Mushlag 11	0	ı	4B	5
PA I Defigitas this b B C Hollioske	0	ı	5	
V P Clarke b Bethnet 16	0	1	4B	7
G 51 Roberts b Mushtag 8	0	0	31	3
s J Dean not out	Ú	0	0	
Extras (61 /68 nb19)				
Total (54.3 overs)				
Fall: 1-11, 2-13, 3-62, 4-60, 5-94, 6-96,	7-	10	s, B-	11

Bowling: M.P. Buknett 17-3-48-3, B.C. Hollioake 11-4-36-4, Saglam Mushcag 24.3-9-42-3, R M Amin 1-0-4-0, A J

SURREY Second Juniogs			
Runs és	is	Bls	Min
13 Ward c Knikken b Dean	1	13	14
t) N Batty c Barnett b DeFreitas 21 0	2	38	54
N Shahid b Blockwell	5	56	73
"A J Hollmake c May b Blackwell . 25 0	4	47	74
A D Brown r May & Dean am.11 0	ı	23	47
B C Hollicates & DeFreitas & Blackwell A 0	0	23	28
JA knott not out 15 0	0	43	49
A R Buicher not out	1	25	27
Exeras 0			
Total (for 6, 44.4 overs)			
Fall: 1-13, 2-38, 3-72, 4-89, 5-91, 6-101			
To Bat: R M Amin, M P Bicknell, Soglain Musi	hja	a	
Bounling: P A J Defrestas 11-5-24-1, K J Des		•	-52-

Umpires: M.J. Krichen and R. Paimer Essex v Glamorgan CHELMSFORD (Day 3 of 4): Essex (6 pts), with 9 second-lunings wickets in band, require 384 runs to

bent Glamorgan (S pts)

2. LD Blackwell 17 4-4-42-3, V P Clarke 1-0-2-0.

Called an electricity of GLAMORGAN -- First lunings 288 (Dale 73, Law 68, Such 5-110, Williams 4-42) ESSEX - First Innings 260 (Grayson 59, Irani 51)

ed tenings Coate

NUTS	22	42	136	Logal.
S P James b Grayson	0	17	252	298
D A Cosker b Grayson 37	1	2	93	127
A Dale c Hodgson b Williams 82	0	10	104	151
M P Maynard c Flanagon b Grayson .29	Q	2	32	37
A Cottey not out	1	1	49	45
Dawood not out	0	1	11	13
Extras b1 b3 w8 nb9				
lotal (for 5 dec, 91 overs)371				
Fall: 1-13, 2-121, 3-290, 4-294, 5-341.				
Nd Not Ber R O B Croft, S D Thomas.	A P	Da	mes.	0 T
New				

Bowling: N F Williams 17-0-17-2. R C frami 19-1-74-0. P M Such 25-1-90-0, M C flott 9-2-28-0, A P Grayson 16-0-69-3. DR Lavy 5-0-29-0.

ESSEX Second Innings					
Runs	6s	45	815	Min	
0 D 1 Robinson not out	Q	1	17	21	
N Flanagan c Dawood b Parkin	0	0	8	10	
T P Hodeson not out					
Extras w2					
Yotal (for 1, 5.1 overs)15					
Fall: 1-1,					

To Bat: R C Irani, "A P Grayson, S O Peters, O R Law, IB 1 Hyam, M C Bett. N F Williams, P M Suc ling: O T Parker 3-0-11-1, A P Davies 2.1-1-5-0

Kent v Hampshire CANTERBURY (Day 3 of 4); Hampshire (4 pts), with one second-insings wicker in band, require 293 runs KENT — First Innings 391 (Headicy 81, Patel 58no, Ful-

con 54, Aeming 51, Morris 4-681 HAMPSHIRE - First Innings 173 (Smith 72, Hooper KENT - Second Insings Overnight 86-3

R W T Key low ti Hartley33 0 4122 123 C L Hooper b McLean......12 0 1 24 44 M A Ealham c Udal b Hartley10 0 0 33 32 M V Fleming a White b Stephenson 21 0 2 60 67 15 A Marsh St Aymes & Udal47 0 6 44 65 M J McCague c Smith b Udal 26 7 1 16 15

Extras (64 Ro10 462)......16 Total (79 overs)227 Fall: 1-9, 2-80, 3-80, 4-87, 5-107, 6-107, 7-184, 8-186. 9-218. Bowling: N A M McLean 11-1-29-1, P3 Harrier 13-3-21-3. 5 O Udal 11-3-37-4. A C Morris 10-2-36-0. A D Mas-

carenhas 10-4-30-1, J P Stephenson 17-3-58-1, K O James

Runs	6s	45	略	
I S Laney c Marsh b Patel12	Q	1	B 1	
J P Stephenson c Marsh b McCague 4	0	1	31	
G W White c Marsh b Headey	0	1	62	
"R A Smith C House b Hooper 1	0	0	18	
1A N Aymes c McCague b Hooper 8	0	1	22	
A O Mascarenhas c Fulton b Hooper 16	0	3	61	
K O James c Key b Hooper12	0	3	39	
A C Morris b McCague22	Q	3	49	
S O Udat not out2S	0	4	57	
N A M McLean c Marsh b McCague10	0	2	9	
P I Hartley not out	0	Q	4	
Extras (010 fb8 nb6)24				

Bowling: D W Headley 9-4-9-1, M J McCague 12 4-2-40-3. M V Fieming 7-4-3-0. CL Hooper 21-12-29-4, M M Patel

Lancashire v Gloucestershire OLD TRAFFORD (Day 3 of 4): Lancastive (23pts) best

Gloocestershire (3pts) by an tenlegs and 35 runs Lancashire won toss LANCASHIRE - First landings 386 (Chappie 69, Vates GLOUCESTERSHIRE - First landings 158 (Schofield 4-56. Yates 4-64)

C A Walsh c McKeown b Martin 0 0 0 14 18 Extras (610 lb10 nb14)..... 34 Total 153.3 overs)

Fall: 1-3, 2-11, 3-11, 4-27, 5-78, 6-83, 7-95, 6-110, 9-Bowling: C P Schofield 23-3-60-4, G Yares 21,3-3-91-4. P J Martin 5-3-5-2, Wasim Akram 4-0-17-0 Umphres: J C Balderstone and B Leadbeater

Middlesex v Warwickshire LORD'S (Day 3 of 4): Middlesex (5 pts), with S secand-izzings mickets remaining, need 38 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Warwickshire (ii pts)

61, Johnson 4-60) MIDDLESEX - First loolings Overalght 1944 (Shah

Batras (b12 nb11). 23

Total (120.1 overs) 297

Raft 1-38, 2-60, 3-61, 4-132, 5-199, 6-254, 7-279, 8-282, 9-282. 9-282. Borwillag: E 5 H Giddins 26-10-55-1, G Welch 19-5-52-1, N M K Smith 16-3-37-0, T A Munton 28-8-66-7, A F Giles 28.1-7-56-0, M A Wagh 3-0-19-0.

MIDDLESEX — Second Lankage

Fatte 1-130.

To Batt: O A Shah, P N Weekes, O C Nash, "IK R Brown, R L Johnson, C Batt. P C R Tufnell, T F Bloomfield Bowling: E5 H Glddins 3-0-11-0, T A Manton 3-1-7-0, G Vatich 11-4-31-0, M 1 Powell 2-0-9-0, A F Glies 18-4-42-1, M A Wagh 2-1-4-0, N M K Smith 7-3-21-0, Unspires: I H Hortig and J F Steele.

Sussex v Durham EASTBOURNE (Day 3 of 4): Durham (3 pts), with 3 second-bulings widelets to band are 121 runs pelific SUSSEX — First Innings 460 (Bevan 95, Khan 91, Kirt-ley 59, Adams 56, Harmison 4-94, Wood 4-107) DURHAM - First Include Overnight 116-5 First innings Contd .

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire RIDDERMINSTER [Day 3 of 4]: Nottinghamskire [4 pts] are leading Morcestershire [6 pts] by 276 runs with one second-lanings wicket in hand

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - First limings 164 WORCESTERSHIRE - First lankings 289 (Moody 112.

Total (for 9, 130 owers)401 333, 9-377.

7-48-1, T M Moody 12-3-40-0, S R Lampirt 21-2-84-1, M 1 Rawnsley 29-11-50-0. V S Solanti 3-0-28-0, P 1 New-

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Total (for 5, 50 overs)227

Did Not Bats 1D Ripley, D E Malcolm. D Follett. J P Tay-Bowling: G P Wickramasinghe 9-0-51-0, K R Pushpaku-

mara 5.1-1-9-1, P.A. de Silva 3.5-1-26-0, M. Muralimaran 10-1-37-2, H D P K Charmasena 10-1-27-2, U O U Chandana 6-0-28-0. S.T.Javasuchia 6-0-46-0.

Munton . seizes the high ground

in fillip

By JOHN COLLIS at Lord's

> Middlesex 297 and 157-2 Warwickshire 466

TIM MUNTON, whose back problems last year were followed by a hamstring damage earlier this season, looked as fit as a large and somewhat ungainly flea at Lord's yesterday; when he bowled Middlesex into

Although he is without true pace, his height gives him the rib-bckling bounce of a quicker man, and vesterday he confirmed Warwickshire's dominance of the game. In dismissing Chris Batt, strangely named for a man asked to go in after Phil Tufnell, he also denied the hosts a third batting point. In many other contexts Mid-

dlesex's 297, carefully and responsibly compiled for the most part, would have been a perfectly respectable score. Not, however, when it was the response to Brian Lara's magnificent return to form with 226. Middlesex were left 20 short of avoiding the follow-on with a day and a half to go.

Both skippers perished in the second over of a day - Lara on Thursday, Keith Brown yesterday - after which Middlesex's hopes of dignity rested with Paul Weekes. Last season only Tufnell finished below Weekes in the Middlesex batting averages, but this could not have been guessed while watching the left-hander's effort yesterday. He resisted 265 balls, but a 4, snick cheated him of a century.

David Goodchild, only recently preferred to Yorkshireman Richard Kettleborough at the top of the Middlesex order. joined forces with the Australian left-hander, Justin Langer, in making a better fist of the second innings. Goodchild, a correct, tall batsman, recently made a century against Sri Lanka, and followed this with another mature effort yesterday. The opening partnership ended somewhat mysteriously, Langer remaining in his crease while Warwickshire celebrated a delivery from Giles, until he realised that after padding up outside off stump, the ball had cruelly whirled into the wicket. Mike Gatting then joined Goodchild in an attempt to nurse the youngster to a century and the

game into a fourth sunny day.

by Giles for 55. Lancashire underlined their title credentials, beating Gloucestershire by an innings and 35 runs at Old Trafford. The spinners Chris Schofield and Gary Yates took four wickets apiece as Gloucestershire collapsed for 193 after following on. The 23point win lifted Lancashire to third place in the table.

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HAPIC GAMES

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

POUNS	bs	45	Ыβ	
S Laney c Marsh b Patel12	Q	1	В1	105
P Stephenson c Marsh b McCague , 4	0	1	31	36
W White c Marsh b Headey	0	1	62	61
R A Smith C House b Hooper 1	0	0	18	19
A N Aymes c McCague b Hooper 8	0	1	22	20
O Mascarenhas c Fulton b Hooper16	0	3	61	45
O James c Key b Hooper12	0	3	39	25
C Morris b McCague22	Q	3	49	52
0 Udat not out2S	0	4	57	5E
A M McLean c Marsh b McCague10	0	2	9	10

Potal (for 9, 71.4 overs)153
Pair: 1-18. 2-48. 3-48. 4-56. 5-67. 6-83. 7-92. 8-131, 9-

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Second leadings Overnight 11-

(Statuse-shift won toss WARRINGKSHIRE - First Innings A66 (Lara 226, Smith

NOTTINGHAMSHERE - Second Innines Oversiets 100 U Afzaal c Rhodes b Chapman34 0 4160 221

G F Archer c Moody b Chapman 1 0 0 2 2 P J Franks c Rawnsley b Chapman 19 0 3 21 21 *C M W Read khw b Newport17 0 3 49 70 P A Strang c Rhodes b Chapman.,...... 0 0 0 4 2

Fall: 1-24, 2-65. 3-776, 4-178, 5-300, 6-327, 7-333, 8-

Umpires: R A White and G Sharp.

Tourist Match

Northamptonskire v Sri Lanka NORTHAMPTON (One Day): Sri Lanks beat lorthamptonshire by 1 wat

P. J. Bailey c Jayasuriya b Pushpakumara 0 0 0 1 5 *K M Curran 6 Muralitharan 14 0 1 38 51 T C Walton Boy to Dharmasena 0 0 0 1 0 Fadl: 1-1, 2-41, 3-49, 4-60, 5-60.

S T layasurya flow b Malcolm tR 5 Kakwitharana c Sales b Penberthy28 0 6 24 42

H P Tillakaratne b Follett 17 0 1 51 51 U D U Chandana b Follett 0 0 0 1 H O P K Dharmasena Ibw b Taylor11 0 2 28 33 G P Wickramasinghe run out 1 0 0 3 Muralitharan not out...... 4 0 1 5 K R Pushpakumara not out 0 0 0 3 5 Falt: 1-47, 2-74, 3-117, 4-129, 5-196, 6-196, 7-223, 8-

Hing: D E Malcolm 10-2-47-1. J P Taylor 10-0-45-1. D Follett 10-0-51-2, A L Perberthy 4-0-26-2, 1 N Snape 10-0-38-1. K M Curran 3-1-11-1. R 1 Balley 0.5-0-4-0. Umpires: O J Constant and K Shutheum

First Women's Test Match

England Women's Xi v Australia Women's XI GUILDPORD (Day 3 of 4): Australia Woosen's XI are traffing England Momen's XI by 21 runs with 5 first-innings without in hand England Women's won tops ENGLAND WOMEN'S XI — Pirst Inniegs 414 |Britin 146, Edwards 53, Magno 5-871

AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S XI — First lonings Overnight L Keightley c & b Edwards. 36 0 7152 165

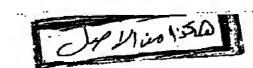
Total (for 9, 142.3 avers)393 Fall: 1-28. 2-136. 3-140, 4-360, 5-393. To Bate A Fahey, C Fitzpatnek, O Magno, C Mason, 11 Price. Bourling: C Taylor S-4-8-0. L Pearson 21-0-76-1. K Leng 24-B-61-0, S Redfern 17-5-61-0, C Connor 14-2-46-0, C Edwards 25-7-62-2. S Coffyer 18.3-1-51-1. K Smithles 18-

Umpires: A Garron and V Gibbens. Today's fixtures

11.00am start uniers Stated

11.00am start uniers Stated

CORNINGL INSURANCE FIFTH TEST (Tailed day of five): Headingley. England v South Africa SHISTLANNIC ASSURANCE (CHAMPIONISMIP (Third day of four): The Foster's Oval: Surrey v Oerbyshire (Fourth day of four): Chemistora Esser v Glamorgan. Canlerbury: Kent v Hampohre. Lord's Middleser v Warnockstire. Eastbourne Susser v Durham Kidderminster: Worcestershire v Nottinghamsbire. hamsere. PREST MORENS TEST MATCH (Fourth day of four): Guild-ford. England v Australia.





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towards

THE VETERAN Scotland batsman, Asin Philip, stood between Australia A and certain victory when rain washed out the first mini-Test at the Grange Club in Edinburgh yesterday.

After the tourists' captain, Michael Di Venuto, had declared overnight with his side 393 runs ahead, Philip withstood the on-slaught from Adam Dale and Brendon Julian to reach a fine unbeaten half-century. The 40-year-old Stenhousemuir opener had seen five of his colleagues dismissed as the Scots once again struggled to cope with the step up in class.

They had made just 85 hefore lan Stanger was bowled by Colin Miller's off-spin in the over before lunch.

Dale was the main wicket-taker producing a devastating 12-over spell which brought him 3 for 29, while Julian made the hreakthrough, removing Bryn Lockie lbw in the second over before a run had been scored.

However, Philip again demonstrated the class and concentration which have hrought him almost 5,000 runs in his international career. He faced 78 balls in his unbeaten 50, striking seven fours and even lifting the dangerous Dale over the midwicket boundary. With a little support from the tail, he may even had his sights set on a 12th century for his country.

However, persistent drizzle denied both Philip and the Australians. The batsman, who found himself out of favour at the start of the season, now looks a certainty to lead Scotland's World Cup challenge next summer.

"I was beginning to enjoy it out there and certainly have aspirations to go to the World Cup," he said. "A lot of people seemed to think that because I had turned 40 Fd stopped being a good player, and maybe I was beginning to believe it as well. But I've enjoyed the challenge of facing a top class howling attack."

The sides meet again in a one-day clash at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow,

Sussex were closing in on their first county championship win in six games at Eastbourne yesterday, where Durham struggled to 88 for 5 after following on 262 behind. The former Yorkshire and Northamptonshire seamer, Mark Robinson, who took 3 for 43 as Durham were dismissed for 198 in their first innings, followed up with three more wickets to have the visitors in disarray.

Durham's second innings got off to a disastrous start with James Kutley having John Morris caught at slip for eight. Robinson then removed Nick Speak. Jimmy Daley and captain David Boon cheaply.

The left-arm swing bowler Jason Lewry took his season's tally to 48 by trapping opener Michael Gough legbefore in his first over and the former Sussex player Martin Speight and Paul Collingwood were together at lea, with their side still needing 174 to make Sussex bat again.

Farlier, Speight struck a defiant unbeuten 60 as Durham, resuming on 116 for 5, were hustled out just before lunch. Speight, dropped on two off Kirtley the night hefore, stroked seven fours off 177 balls in his threeand-a-half-hour innings.

Major sponsor ends backing after 38 years

OLYMPIC GAMES

THE MULTI-NATIONAL corporation, IBM, is ending its 38-year relationship with the Olympic Games, deciding after months of negotiations not to sign an eight year deal with the International Olympic Committee, the company announced yesterday.

. IBM, which spent more than £60 million to sponsor the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, and provided much of the behind-the-scenes technology for free, wanted local Olympic organising committees to share the technology costs,

But the two sides never agreed on how much money should be paid to IBM or how much the company should do for free in exchange for marketing rights, IBM executives were upset by an IOC decision to seek a more profitable sponsorship deal for upcoming Games' Internet services and sites, a role IBM held in the last two Olympics, in Nagano

The company supplied computers and shall to run Weh sites, score boards and other technology. It promoted its Olympics involvement in television and print advertisements, but came under severe criticism for its performance in Atlanta, with the results delivery system incurring many problems and unable to meet

its promises to news organisations.

18M's sponsorship will end with the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney Australia, and the decision means that the company will not be involved in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt

Philip fillip leads Scots Nilsson huge target runs eye over cup options

BY ANDY FARRELL at Gleneagles

PIA NILSSON was more than an interested spectator at the McDonald's WPGA Championship here yesterday. Most importantly, she was a happy one. Nilsson is the captain of the Solheim Cup team, having stepped up from being Mickey Walker's deputy in the last match two years ago. A fortnight tomorrow she will name her team to take to Muirfield Village to face the Americans on 18-20 September.

On a morning when the gales of the previous day had abated and while the rain was holding off, Nilsson followed the threeball of Laura Davies, Helen Alfredsson and Mhairi McKay. Her judgement proved correct - a welcome omen as Alfredsson, who won the same championship a year ago, scored a 68 to take the lead at four under par alongside Scotland's Catriona Matthew. Davies was a stroke behind with Marie-Laure de Lorenzi.

"Helen is in top form and Laura is running into form just at the right time," Nilsson said. "I enjoyed" watching Laura win in Sweden two weeks ago and she is doing extremely well here."

Both Davies and Alfredsson have been members of each Solheim Cup team since the biennial event began in 1990. They should both be among the seven automatic qualifiers, as should de Lorenzi, while Matthewis in line for one of Nilsson's five wild card selections. Europe's Solheim Cup captain has never had a wider breadth of talent to draw on.

"I think this will be our strongest team ever," Nilsson said. "I have been trying to keep an open mind on the wild cards. There are around 18 players who could be on the team. biggest hitter in the women's game

Even if we had a team of 15 players, we would still have a strong team, and that's a big change from a conple of years ago.

The change in Alfredsson's fortimes on the greens was the result, apparently, of sleeping with her putter. The effect was not immediate, however, and after a three-putt at the first she warned her caddie to stay away from her for a while. And the Swede's boyfriend, Leo Cuellar, the former Mexican World Cup goalkeeper, knew not to open his mouth.

Matthew, who did not drop a shot in her 69, has just split from husband Graeme, but only in their relationship as player and caddie. "It was a joint decision," said the former Cur-tis Cup player. "But he'll probably say he sacked me."

The Matthews spend most of the year travelling in the States, where Catriona plays full-time on the LPGA Tour "If there were more events in Europe with comparable purses I'd come back more often," Matthew, 28, said. "But if you want to improve you have to go to the States because that's where all the best players are."

It is an irony that Nilsson appreciates that the weakness of the European Tour could boost their chances at Muirfield Village. "It has been fortunate that so many of our members are part of the LPGA Tour as well and have played a lot out there," she said. "That could help us this year but not in the long term if the European Tour continues as it is."

France's elegant de Lorenzi took the lead before finishing bogey, douhle bogey, birdie. She suffers from lumbago and that was the reason for the ugly shot that lost a ball at the 17th. No one had a more adventurous round than Davies, however.

She almost holed in one at the eighth hut two holes previously the



Mhairi McKay celebrates a successful putt on the 17th at Gleneagles yesterday

could advance the ball only 10 feet both think they do not hole enough from a full swing after her tee shot putts. Davies, however, is deterwas buried in the rough. The next mined not to let it play on her mind. only went 30 feet and was still short hnt she got away with a bogey-six. weeks," she said. "In particular hol-thinking I was a bad putter and I'll former Walker Cup player, David

"Tve been going well the last few Davies has much in common ing out from two feet and that's never do that again. Now I just say Park, on 145 and Robert Lee on 146 with Colin Montgomerie in that they what was missing. It sounds silly I missed a few."

HOCKEY

but I have heen missing one and two-footers and 18 months of missing putts will make you talk negatively about it. I talked myself into

Henderson defies the flu to lead in Berlin

SCOTT HENDERSON made light of a bout of flu to join Van Phillips as a surprise contender - two shots behind the teader, Michael Campbell of New Zealand - after the second round of the German Open in Berlin

Henderson scored 67, the best round of the day, and Phillips shot 68 to close the gap on Campbell, whose second-round score of 70 gave him a 36-hole aggregate of 137 at seven under par.

Spain's Ignacio Garrido, the defending champion, added a level-par 72 to his first-round 67 to also move into joint second place - hut it was Henderson who was the real hero of the day.

The 29-year-old Aberdeen golfer who was Rookie of the Year on the European Tour last year, has been suffering from flu this week. "I can't believe the way I scored, consider-ing the way I feel," he said after his round. I started to feel unwell in the last round of the Scandinavian Masters last week, when I felt terrible

"When I got here in Berlin it developed into flu, and I've been suffering from headaches and taking all sorts of pills and such-like to help me. Last night I didn't even have dinner out. I had a long, hot bath, had room service, watched a movie and had an early night. Thankfully it seems to be clearing up now, and I'm getting bet-ter and my score today really helps."

Henderson did not look as if he was going to challenge the leaders when he played the first 10 holes in level par today. But then he sprang to life, with five birdies in his last eight holes to come home in a superb 31.

Thunderstorms once again plagued the Finnish Masters at Espoo yesterday, leaving several competitors having to complete their second rounds this morning.

Of those lucky enough to avoid the enforced stoppages, Ricardo Gon-zalez went round in 69 for a sevenunder par 137, leaving him a shot ahead of his fellow Argentinian. Jorge Berendt, who also returned 69.

Andreas Lindberg of Sweden and Panu Kylliainen of Finland are a further shot back, while the best-placed Britons, John Bickerton, Simon Wakefield and Charles Challen, share fifth place on 141.

The cut is expected to fall at level-par 144, which means that the

Marioni ends the long wait for Italy

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY in Dublin

THE ITALIAN team received the Aga Khan Trophy for the first time since 1962 when winning the Kerrygold Nations Cup yesterday after a hard battle with the Netherlands, whom they beat by 0.75 of a fault. Britain and Ireland, who had been expected to dominate, shared third place,

Only two riders, the 24-year-old Alessia Marioni for Italy and Nick Skelton for Britain, jumped double clear rounds within the tight time allowed. Marioni, who was riding in only her third Nations Cup, achieved her first ever double clear on the grey geiding, Maradonna van de Helle.

Skelton, with many Nations Cup successes behind him, had two wonderful rounds with David Broome's Virtual Village Hopes are High, who he has been riding for little more than a month. Ronnie Massarella. the Great Britain team manager. must now regard this new partnership as prime contenders for the World Equestrian Games to be held

in Rome in October. Massarella had been hoping for the first British Nations Cup win of the year but, despite Skelton's fine effort as first rider of the team, it was

not to be. Di Lampard, who followed on Abbervail Dream, had been foot perfect until misjudging the final oxer in the first round and removing the top two poles. On his reappearance, the normally reliable team horse hit the planks and put a foot in the water which followed for the discard score of eight faults.

James Fisher and Renville, unsettled when he entered the arena to the cheering which followed a clear round from Ireland's Captain John Ledingham, had the middle element of the treble down first time hut jumped an impressive clear at the second attempt.

John Whitaker, whose Diamond Cliff was the least experienced of the British horses, used all his skill to get the big horse round on nine faults (eight for two jumping errors and one on time) and he looked to be heading for a second-round clear until clobbering the final obstacle. Britain, lying only fifth at halfway, made a small advance to equal third

before Italy's Guido Dominici and Friso jumped the four-fault round that kept his country in the lead. KIRCH REPLY IN COUNTRY IN the real.

KERKYGOLD DUBLIN HORSE SHOW. Norrygold Nations Capt. 1 isay 8 lautes; 2 The Netherlands 8.75; 3 Great Britain and treland 12: 4 Belgium 18.5; 5 Germany 21. Samsung Nations Cap Series standings: 1 France 32pp; 2 The Netherlands 30; 3 Germany 26. Kerrygold Hit and Hurry: 1 Sentor Mighty Blue [R Smith, GB) 26pts, 62.62sess; 2 Fedor (P Geerlus, Neth) 25pts, 63.95; 3 Millstreet Ruby (Capt J Ledinghom, tri) 24pts, 62.57.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

during play at The Oval, so I just saw the aftermath. I'm sure we will set together at some point to celebrate." Alan Butcher, Mark's father, after being forced back into first-class action aged 44 for Surrey on the very day his son made his maiden Test century.

"I thought the boys were winding me up. I just couldn't fathom it out. I couldn't derstand what was going on

Then I heard he was driving back to bat at The Oval. I can't believe it. I'll have to ring him up." The view of Butcher Jar on his father's eventful day.

The Gazza situation still goes on. The door is not shut for him. He needs to be fitter than ever before, and I will be looking very closely as to how he starts the season. There are a few players in the same

situation - Matthew Le Tissier, for Instance." Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, explains why he left Paul Gascoigne out of his 29-strong training squad.

"Hopefully by the first game, I'll be fine again, so what's the problem? I realise that I get paid a lot of money to keep myself fit so I'm getting my hand down." John Hartson, the West Ham striker, responds to jibes that he is overweight.

Cullen drives on England

BY BILL COLWILL

Canada

ENGLAND COMPLETED a useful hat-trick of wins against Canada at Milton Keynes yesterday as they finished their international match programme before next month's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. They should depart with confidence although coach Maggie Souvave would be the first to admit

there is still much work to be done. As in all the games against Canada, who are in England's pool in Malaysia, England's finishing yes-

terday left much to be desired. The 3-1 margin flattered the hosts, but the tenacious approach work of Tina Cullen and Mandy Nicholls, who both missed the recent World Cup because of mjuries, is promising.

Cullen bamboozled the Canadian cantain, Laurelee Kopek, to create the first England goal, Jane Smith taking the chance after 20 minutes, hut Sue Armstrong put the visitors on terms seven minutes later when she took advantage of a careless clearance from Fiona Greenham.

England's play became ever more frantic until the 61st minute. when Sarah Blanks deflected home Greenham's shot from their seventh penalty corner to restore the lead.

With six minutes remaining Cullen finished off another corner move. Souyave paid tribute to Canada. "They defended well and made us

work hard," she said. "We need to be more penetrating and more direct. We have been able to look at various options and I know the areas we have to work on before the games." have to work on before the garnes."

ENGLARID: C Raid (Hightown); J Esspana (Canterbury), K Browns (capt, Stough), F Greensham
(Otton), L Copeliand (Slough); L Wiright (Otton),
K Bownian (Leicester), L Newcounbe (Hightown); J Stissathin (Sutton Coldfield), M Nicholis
(Slough), T Cullien (Hightown), Satistitanes
used: J Smitch (Slough), J Misciel (Leicester),
J Bitropason (Olton), S Bitaniss (Leicester),
Canada: S Forbes; L Kopek (capt), B-J Stead-ward, J Wong, K MacNelli; C Humer, C Somerville,
S Tingley, S Amstrong, A MacFarlane, K Taunton,
Substitutes used: A Arade, L Faust, A Grimes,
M Boyer, J Zinkan-McGrade.
Umplayer & Clarke (England) and J McLimcock

Umpires: 6 Carice (England) and J McLimcock (Caracta)

Myers just fails to halt United States

BASKETBALL THE UNITED STATES withstood a

32-point performance by Carlton Myers to edge Italy 80-77 yesterday and set up a semi-final meeting with Russia at the World Basketball Championship in Athens.

lection of castoffs with 16 points, and Wendell Alexis added 14, including two free throws with 25.7sec left, that put the Americans ahead 79-77. Myers missed a 28-foot threepoint attempt that would have won

Michael Hawkins led the US col-

the game with 2.9sec on the clock, have beaten Italy by about 30 points and Kiwane Garris (11 points) added a free throw for the final margin. "This game was tough to lose. We

were there to the end," Myers said. "Eventually we wore them down and made the baskets that counted," said Alexis, a star at Syracuse in the 1980s and who now plays in the German League. "We would have loved to win the game by 30 points, but now it's down to the medal round and every game is going to be hard."

The Dream Team probably would

the Continental Basketball Associ-

ation and European leagues. Russia moved into the semi-finals by pulling away from Lithuania 82-67 as Vassily Karassev scored 31

but USA Basketball dumped the

NBA stars in mid-June in the mid-

dle of the league's ongoing labour

dispute. In their place is a rag-tag

mix of players drawn mainly from

Russia lost to the United States in the gold medal game at the 1994 World Championships.

Temptations of the Squadron's cloak

BY STUART ALEXANDER in Cowes

A THREE-HOUR wait was worth every minute as a classic sea breeze swept up the Solent yesterday. It provided another day of brilliant racing conditions ahead of the evening's spectacular fireworks, which unite competitors and spectators in one of the thrills of Skandia Life Cowes

The prize for the Class 1 contenders was the rather romantic Rocking Chair Trophy, which is just that and spends most of its days in the races continued. They have not

the Island Sailing Club. A crisp clip around the mid-Solent and fast progress meant the tide had less influence than on the long legs of the previous days.

It has been a good Cowes Week. Early apprehension about a repeat of last year's lack of wind leading to many races being lost was decisively blown away on a Monday which, for many, provided the sort of hlast they love to tackle. There followed four days of first-class sailing conditions. lots of sunshine, fresh sea breezes and fmishes early enough to threaten far

too much socialising ashore. Debates over the management of

changed much in 20 years and those who buy into Cowes Week know what they should expect. The pressure for some starts and courses to be set from committee boats in different parts of the Solent is still there for those classes that have engines to . diminished if they were not on its take them there. That would allow the shorter legs and sharper boat not be there anyway. handling which most would enjoy. The dayboat classes need to stay close to home, but the others could rotate, as they do in Ford Cork

The problems are, apparently, the cost of setting up all the other start lines and the notion that people are keen to race off the Royal

Week.

Yacht Squadron line. Anyone who feels such a desperate need to touch the hem of the Squadron's cloak has bigger problems than sailing in Cowes Week. And those race officers who feel their importance would be illustrious platform probably should

As the mantle of management switches from Dan Bradby to Stuart Quarrie as Director of Cowes Combined Clubs, perhaps some new initiatives will be given another airing. One being discussed in the marina is to make the CCC more of an executive group, with its participating clubs sharing in the commercial

returns but allowing the appointment of either more permanent or professional teams of race officers rather than giving the job to the various clubs. The best that the clubs could provide would still be invited.

Fears that more boats would return to other home ports, rather than gathering every evening in Cowes, are not seen as serious. Cowes has been given its wish in separating events like the Commodores' Cup and next year's Admiral's Cup from the regatta week. It needs only to keep investing in itself and making its money with a smile to keep on

attracting the thousands. It is also actively seeking more

sponsorship. Smaller supporters declared themselves very happy. The hig management problem is over how to keep main sponsor Skandia Life happy, or find a replacement when their contract runs out next year

In Helsinki, Paul Brotherton and Neal McDonald were the highestplaced British pair to qualify for the Gold Fleet of the 49er European Championships, finishing third. Fourth were Ian Barker and Simon Hiscocks, with Ian and Andy Budgen, who were second in the worlds earlier this year, 10th. Eight races are scheduled for the final two days.

Giggs targets the cream of Europe

Old Trafford's Welsh wonder is ready to take the Champions' League by storm, after a frustrating summer watching his mates show off in France. By Glenn Moore

LIKE MARIO Kempes, Paolo Rossi and Maradona before them, Zinedine Zidane and Marcel Desailly confirmed their niche in the game's history this summer, performing with distinction at the highest level

It is, George Best recently told his authorised biographer, a source of "enduring regret" that he never had the opportunity to do the same. One of the better pretenders to the Ulsterman's Old Trafford crown knows the feeling. While this weekend's resumption of bostilities, just 26 days since the French celebrated on the Champs-Elysées, may be too soon for some, Ryan Giggs cannot wait to start.

The nearest Giggs came to the World Cup was some PR work for Reebok in Paris during the tournament. Promoting boots is not quite the same as using them but, at just 24, it already appears this will be as close as he will get to the game's premier tournament. Bobby Gould may claim he saw "fear" in his opposing managers' eyes when Wales were drawn with Denmark and Italy in qualifying for Euro 2000, but the reality is that the Principality is unlikely to reach a major tournament ever again. Like Best, Giggs will have to be content with showing his greatness on the club atage.

"It is disappointing to miss out." said Giggs when we met. "Obviously every footballer wants to play in the World Cup and I'm no different It is just something I have to come to terms with. It's going to be difficult for Wales. I hope that we get there some day, but with the seeding system as it is we always get two hard teams in the group."
Giggs, who confirmed that despite

playing for England schools he was never eligible for the England team, starts his season at Wembley in the Charity Shield tomorrow. Then, on Wednesday, Manchester United are the opportunity to do that. You can due to open their Champions' League campaign.

As it did with Best, Europe provides Giggs' main chance of making a permanent mark on the game. "I always look forward to playing in Europe," he said. "It does have similarities to playing for your country. you face opposition from different countries. It is odd having to qualify for the league stage, we are so used to being champions." Does it devalue the tournament?

"If we get to the semi again, we won't be thinking about having had to qual-

This season offers extra motiva-



'It is disappointing to miss out on the World Cup, but I always look forward to playing in Europe... if we get to the semi again we won't be thinking about having had to qualify'

tion for Giggs with the arrival of Jesper Blomqvist from Milan. The Swedish international offers the first competition for Giggs' place on the left-wing since Lee Sharpe's best years. It bas been mooted that Giggs will be given a different role to accommodate Blomqvist, but Giggs is in no mood to move.

My favourite position is still left wing," said Giggs. "My main asset is running at people and it gives me get isolated, but at United we've always played 4-4-2 and given the wingers, wbether me and Andrei [Kanchelskis] or me and Becks [David Beckham], plenty of

"I do enjoy playing midfield as you do get more involved, and I can play un front. When I first came to United I'd always played left wing, then they played me up front and I played team. Playing in different positions gives you an extra dimension, but I don't think I'll go as far as playing at the back. I wouldn't want to mark Duncan Ferguson."

A third motivation for Giggs, and his team-mates, is the sour memory of their empty-handed season. Already something of an elder statesman at United, he is one of just three players (along with Peter Schmeichel and Denis Irwin) from 1991-92 when United lost the championship to Leeds. Alex Ferguson regards that disappointment as the making of the subsequent years of plenty and Giggs believes last season will have a similar effect - just as the barren 1994-95 season was fol-

lowed by a second double. "The manager always says you need disappointments, it makes you a better player. It was certainly the case after Leeds. Some of the young lads in the team have never lost before and I think they'll come back

stronger players. We had injuries last year but just didn't win enough games. Arsenal's there most of the time in the youth run at the end of the season was exceptional. I would watch their games on television and think "they'll slip up this time' but they never did."

One of the crucial injuries was the hamstring problem suffered by

Giggs against Derby just before the pop singer. Louise. Other young European semi. The irony was that stars, like Owen and Paul Scholes, it ended his first season of full fitness in several years and he was in rampant form. "I was flying." he recalled, "it was so disappointing to get injured at such an important stage."

Giggs' end-of-season mood was not helped by various tabloid allegations about his personal life which have continued during the summer, though be is currently in a settled relationship. Such is football's profile, this intrusive attention now goes with the territory, and Giggs has reluctantly learned to live with it.

"It doesn't affect my life now, but at 18 it was difficult to come to terms with. The thing I found difficult was people writing stuff about your love life and family. You wonder why, but you get used to it. I know where to go now, where you get hassled, where not

Several of Giggs' partners have been high profile themselves, like Danni Behr. Other examples are Beckham's relationship with "Posh Spice", Victoria Adams, and Jamie winning European trophies. I'm at Redknapp's marriage to another a big club with lots of good young

are with former schoolfriends who knew them before they were famous.

"It's about trust," said Giggs. "It is difficult to meet partners and you can see why sometimes girlfriends are also famous. You know they are not after you for anything and you are both used to the attention. So many girls out there are just moneygrabbers, so you've got to be care-

"My friends are people who I used to go to school with, people I've known since I was nine or 10. It helps that I've grown up in the area. Pve never moved this new house is in north Manchester near his mother rather than in the traditional Cheshire footballer belt) or changed my lifestyle."

His contentment and the rise of the Premiership, means a move abroad is unlikely. "You don't need to now. A few years ago Italy was the place to go, but now there are teams in the Premiership quite capable of

players, why move?" United's own attempt to strengthen the side has - Blomqvist apart - foundered. This is perceived as being partly through Ferguson's reluctance to break the wage structure. Would Giggs have wanted parity if a Batistuta, Kluivert or Salas had come in on huge wages. "I'm not bothered what anybody else is earning, as long as you are happy, that's it. Besides, a lot of

stuff in the papers is exaggerated." This may well be true. Giggs has a number of endorsements but retains an agent of the old school and a level head. He can be a challenging interviewee because be'a done it so often and, not being garru by nature, gives little away.

But after a while he does relax, laughing self-consciously at the suggestion that he might have done the restoration of his new house himself and more wryly when asked if, had he failed as a footballer, he would really be a flower seller on the Cardiff bypass, as his boots' adverts suggest. While on the subject [the inter-

they will not, he adds with a pitying look, turn a bad player into a good one. His biggest weakness, he says, is his finishing, which few would disagree with. As a person it is that he gets bored easily though, with age, he has become more patient and take things in my stride more than His strengths on the field are obvious - quick feet, good balance and

in the football firmament as Giggs

these days] he stresses the right

boots do make a difference though

pace. There is another, equally important facet. "Look at his workrate," notes Terry Venables, "With his talent be could be one of those players who just stands around, but he knows that way he will not win things. The work he puts in is fantastic. What a great example to young players." And so to this season. Said Giggs:

"Arsenal will be our main challengers and Chelsea have made some good signings - but we know view has, after all, been set up by if we play to our capabilities we could Reebok, which is the only way you

Arsenal's taste of home begins with charity

be better served just passing the collection plate around the dressingrooms of the Premiership and asking for now but each side will unveil for some loose change when it comes to raising money for charity but, as baving the added attraction of two ever, it is the poor bloody terrace infantry who will be dipping into their pockets to assist a variety of worthy causes at Wembley tomorrow.

Despite a growing familiarity with the ground, a relative absence of big new signings, and live television coverage, the fans of Arsenal

IN THE age of the £40,000-a-week and Manchester United will be out wage, the Football Association might in numbers at the Charity Shield, with close to 70,000 expected. Patrick Kluivert may have eluded both sides World Cup debutants, Arsenal players who actually won France 98 while United will produce the longawaited return of Roy Keane.

The focus of attention will, however, be a player with mixed memories of France 98: David Beckham. If he plays it will be his first appearance on English soil since his Wembley hosts the Highbury faithful for the first of many games. By Glenn Moore

dismissal in St Etienne. Even if he Champions' League games at does not - and be has an ankle injury - the reaction of the Arsenal fans towards him will still be watched

For Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, the match gives his players another chance to acquaint themselves with their new European home - Arsenal are to play their

Wembley - and to put one over their most dangerous rivals.

Wenger said yesterday: "The match is important as it is an bonour and because it is against Manchester United A win will give us confidence going into the season." Nelson Vivas, the Argentine defender recently signed from Lugano, not intended to be an instant replacement for either Lee Dixon or Nigel Winterburn. Jesper Blom-quist, from Parma, is unfit, but Manchester United's other summer signing, the £10m Dutch defender

Jaap Stam, will play. For Arsenal's World Cup winners, the match comes exactly four weeks after their triumph in the Stade de France, but Emmanuel Petit said: "I'm not tired, when you are winning you keep wanting to

is expected to play some part, keep on winning. It would be differ- cape a Fifa ban. Yet there should be though Wenger stressed he was entif we had lost to Brazil in the final. an edge. This is United's fifth ap-What may be a problem is in six (Viera) and the other players from the World Cup. There has not been long to recover and with the Champions' League we will be playing every three or four days."

Tomorrow's match itself is unlikely to be revealing, especially as United will have one eye on Wednesday's Champions' League second qualifying round first-leg tie against LKS Lodz - assuming the Poles es-

pearance in six years - last season month's time for myself. Patrick they heat Chelsea on negaties which, with £'/m raised each match, might put their fans second only to the National Lottery board in charitable largesse. But, after last year's failures, neither fans, nor players. intend to give anything else away.

No tickets will be available at Wembley tomorrow, but Manchester United will be selling to personal callers today. Arsenal have sold their allocation.

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS GUIDE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

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TODAY FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PIRST DIVISION Barnsley v West Bromwich Bardford City v Stockport ... Bristol City v Oxford Utd ... Bury v Huddersfield Crystal Police v Bolton Norwich v Creve Port Vale v Birmingham Portsmouth v Warford 10 Sunderland v OPR..... SECOND DIVISION Bournemouth v Lincoln City 13 Burnley v Bristol Rovers .

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SPEEDWAY PREPARER LEAGUE: Arena Essex v Glasgow (8.0): Bervick v Newcascle (7.0). PREPARER LEAGUE FOUR TEAM CHAMP-IONSHIP: Stoke v Hull v Peterboroust... Sheffield (7.30). ELITÉ LEAGUE: Eastbourne v lpswich 24 Carilsle v Brighton
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neagles). EQUESTRIANISM: Dublin Horse Show TOMORROW

FOOTBALL AXA FR CHARITY SHIELD Arsenal v Manchester Utd (1.0) (at Wembley Stadium) (at Wembley Stadium)
NATIONNIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Grimsby v loswich (4.0) RUGBY LEAGUE JJB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE: Bradford v Hull (6.0); Castleford v Hallfax (3.30); Sal-ford v Leeds (3.0); Warrington v St Helens FIRST DIVISION: Hull Kingston Rovers Featherstone (3.0); Leigh v Wakefield (3.0); Rochdale v Dewsbury (3.0).

SPEEDWAY ELITE LEAGUE: Swindon v Eastbourne (6.0). PREMIER LEAGUE: Newcastle v Reading (6.30); Newport v Glasgow (2.30); Peter-borough v Edinburgh (6.30).

SECONIN DAVISION: Batley v Barrow (3.15); Doncaster v Lancashire Lynx (3.0); Workington

OTHER SPORTS GOLF: McDonald's WPGA Championship (Gle-EQUESTRIANISM: Dublin Horse Show

Happy French return to reality

FRENCH FOOTBALL BY TOM ROSS

THE FRENCH league season kicked off last night with the country still basking in the euphoria that greeted their first World Cup triumph. Two goals from Zinedine Zidane

and a third from Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit against Brazil brought a million tans on to the Champs-Elysées to celebrate victory in the final last month - and France was transformed, at least for the time being, into a football-crazy nation.

But, when it comes to domestic competition, the star names are noticeable by their absence. Of the 11 men who started the final, only one still earns his salary in the French league - the Monaco goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

However, Monaco may face a struggle to keep Barthez following his starting role in the finals. He and his fellow French squad members, Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet, onel Charbonnier, one of Barthez's brough man Fabrizio Ravanelli re-field at Lorient - a scene far removed have all been linked with moves.

Monaco began their campaign in far-off Brittany last night, visiting Lo-still field Bernard Diomède, a bitrient, newcomers to the top flight.

Monaco may be known across the world over as a playground of the rich, but the French title is currently in the possession of Lens, a small northern town built on coal and perhaps more familiar with England's travelling fans this summer.

The proud little club, whose ground staged several World Cup games, including England's victory over Colombia and France's 1-0 golden-goal win over Paraguay, also fear a raid on their title-winning squad, with the Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foé a recent target for Manchester United. The champions begin their campaign

today with a trip to Toulouse. Auxerre, deprived of the talents of last season's top European scorer Stephane Guivarc'h, now at Newcastle, launch their quest with a trip to Rennes today. They must also make changes at the back with Liunderstudies at France 98, now on

part midfield player in the French

World Cup squad. Nantes visit Marseilles, who boast the services of Christophe Dugarry. The experienced striker scored France's first goal of the tournament against South Africa and came on as a substitute against Brazil in the final - but he was lampooned in French television's version of Spitting Image for his profligacy in front of goal with a series of cruel sketches

Also at the Stade Vélodrome is Laurent Blanc, who starred in the stout French defence as well as scoring the golden goal winner against Paraguay. But the veteran missed out on the final, after being sent off after a skirmish with Crostia's Slaven Bilic in the semi-final. Marseilles' third World Cup man, although he was on the fringes, is Robert Pires, signed from Metz in the close season. The former Middlesmains one of their options up front. from the Stade de France.

Montpellier while Nancy entertain newly-promoted Sochaux, who won the Portsmouth centenary tournament last weekend, and Strasbourg

meet Lyon. Bordeaux, the club where Zidane blossomed before moving to Juventus, host another team likely to do well, Paris St-Germain, whose only representative in Jacquet's squad was the former West Ham

goalkeeper Bernard Lama. PSG have strengthened their hand under their new coach Alain Giresse with the signing of the Nigerian World Cup playmaker Jay-Jay Okocha for a French record £11m from the Turkish side, Fener-

hance. France's first domestic season as world champions actually got under way last night in the unremarkable setting of the northern port town, Le Havre, where the home side played host to Metz one and a half hours before Monaco were due to take the

EKENDKE

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • SHOPPING • TRAVEL



Great walls of fire

It's high season for forest fires. And across the United States and the Mediterranean thousands of men and women and their high-tech equipment are ready to go to blazes

oody Grantham is oo his way to the South of France. The dry, hot summer on the Riviera attracts many of his fellow Americans every year in search of sun, but Woody's interests are a little different. He is in search of fire. He and his colleagues are making the trans-Atlantic trip in a C-130 Hercules firefighting aircraft which will spend the summer waiting for forest fires to break out in the parched, lavender-scented hills above the Mediterranean. The fires in Florida may be dying away, but this is just the start of the most dangerous part of the year for firewatchers around the world.

July and August are peak season for fires in the American West, where the worst wildland blazes claim thousands of acres of forest every year. lo the Mediterraneao, Greece and Italy are already fighting heavy fires and there will be more. So Mr Grantham's company. International Air Response, is taking its act on the road for the summer, hopping in their C-130 from Arizona to Detroit to clear customs, then on to Gander in

C-130 from Arizona to Detroit to clear customs, then on to Gander in Caoada, the Azores and finally Marseilles.

The US has a century of experience in dealing with wildfire, and it exports that expertise around the world. America is an elemeotal country with destructive whirlwinds, epic earthquakes and torreotial floods, and its fires come on the same scale. Norman McLean describes a wildfire out of control in "Young Mcn and Fire", the classic book oo the subject. "Viewing total conflagration is literally blinding, as sight becomes sound and the roar of the fire goes out of the head of the gulch and away and beyond, far away," he writes, "You hear the roar of the fire as a roar and beyond, far away," he writes. "You hear the roar of the fire as a roar of an animal without the animal or as an attacking army blown up by the

explosion of its own ammunition dump."

In the past mooth over 2,000 fires in Florida incinerated half a million acres, drawing in 6,000 firefighters from 44 states. But by the standards of the vast infernoes that sweep the great forests of the West, this is not exceptional. The 1988 fires which devastated Yellowstone Park, started by a June lightning strike, were only extinguished when snow fell three months later. Nearly 40 per ceot of the 2.2 million acre park burned, and the bill for damage came to \$111m. In 1996, the worst year in recent history, 7 million acres were burnt across the nation. The US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the state

BY ANDREW MARSHALL



Where's the fire? Smokedivers in the United States

firefighters are ready and waiting for the onset of fire in wilderness areas, with a network of fire lookouts and aerial patrols. As sooo as smoke is spotted they pour manpower and resources into the initial attack, in an effort to put out the fire before it becomes uncontrollable. In the most remote areas, the first oo the scene will be the Smokejumpers, an élite force of young men and women who parachute in to tackle the fire in its earliest stages.

"We are the initial attack forces," says Dave Mueller, a Smokejumper from Boise, Idaho. "Most of the fires we deal with you will never hear about." He and his colleagues are equipped with protective gear and basic tools, including the pulaski, a combined axe and shovel. This is oot work for the timid. Sometimes the Smokejumpers follow storms in their aircraft, waiting for the lightning to strike and start fires, and then parachute down to extinguish them.

After the Smokejumpers come the engines, accompanied by tractor ploughs and buildozers to build or widen firebreaks, and giant air tankers to control the spread of the blaze. The aircraft fly in at 150-200ft, high enough to feel the heat. "It's usually hot anyway, around 100 degrees, so you're kind of hot no matter what," says Ron Hunter of Aero

grees, so you're kind of hot no matter what, "says from number of Aero Union Corporation, a company that operates air tankers. The heat produces unpredictable turbulence, so it is far from a smooth ride.

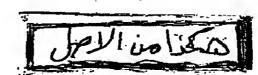
"Whenever you're around a forest fire, it gets kind of bumpy," he says. The planes fly to the side of the fire, dropping their liquid load to prevent it spreading and help the firefighters on the ground to get the blaze under control. They use a mixture of water and a fire retardant like ammonium nitrate, a fertiliser, mixed with a gum thickener that helps the liquid stick to trees. "Water on its own is no use," says Mr Grantham.

"The fire can feed off the oxygen in it." Many of the firefighting aircraft are museum pieces, clunky radialengined workhorses from the great days of aviation like the DC-4s and
C-54s – planes that flew in the Berlin airlift 50 years ago. Some of the
planes, ironically, are the same types that once dropped napalm or defoliants to deforest the flesh types and aircraft have all of the size of has said it wants the fleet upgraded, and aims to have all of the aircraft turbine powered by 2002. Increasingly the firefighters are using C-130 Hercules, an ageing aircraft but still the main transport used by most western air forces, and P-3 Orions; maritime patrol aircraft. One group wants to convert A-10 Warthogs, the ugly, stubby-winged but brutally

eaders and Comment

Features Outdoors Shopping Games_

Colorific





In the sixth of our series on car boot sales, the best pitches are claimed early on a Sunday morning at Flixton, Suffolk, by car booters

Casualties of secrecy

Sir: Ex-MI5 employee David Shayler's recent and wellpublicised revelations concerning the security service's alleged involvement in attempts to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi will not, I hope, deflect attention away from what he has been saying about the information received by MI5 prior to the hombings in London at the Israeli Embassy and Balfour House in 1994 ("Shayler: the

unanswered questions", 4 August). In December 1996, Jawad Botmeb and Samar Alami, both Palestinian, were found guilty at the Old Bailey of being involved in those bombings. They were sentenced to 20 years in prison but have always protested their innocence. Even the judge accepted that they were not members of any terrorist organisation and he also stated that most of the circumstances of the case remained unexplained. Neither was alleged to have actually planted the bombs.

Now Mr Shayler says that M15

was in receipt of enough information before the bombings to have prevented them. So, one would have thought, it was clearly in the interest of justice that this information be revealed. But the Government has obtained injunctions to prevent any details of what Mr Shayler knows being made public. And its Crown through privately held publicinterest immunity hearings, to have withheld from Mr Botmeh and Ms Alami and their lawyers all the information that Mr Shayler says MI5 has about the bombings.

The human consequences of this refusal to be open with such potentially crucial information are disgraceful and immense. Mr Botmeh and Ms Alami rot away in prison while this country's government and justice system do their best to keep from them information upon which their chances of freedom may depend. DANIEL GUEDALLA London N16

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post comments to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Religious truths

Sir: Despite the collective prayer power of the dense ranks of bishops, the outcome on homosexuality is divided, bitter and unconvincing ("Hardline bishops ban gay priests", 6 August). Establishment religion claims its own privileged access to truth hut, clearly, the outcome has had more to do with oratory, regional traditionalism, ethnic prejudices and an unwillingness to upset the faithful. The lessons are clear. Yet again, access to God and the religious truth has turned out to be more elusive and problematical that many religionists would have us believe. The losers are the selfconfident purveyors of religious certainnes - biblical literalists, evangelical populists and theological authoritarians. Whatever may be said about homosexuality, the case for liberal religion has again been strengthened. MILESHOWARTH Chelmsford, Essex

Sir: I can well understand why Clare Garner described the Lambeth hishops' resolution on wording appears, within its own

Discussion of homosexuality within the Church of England now seems more rather than less important.

Lay people need to be convinced -not just told - of the truth of Christian teaching. And the progay community, outvoted at Lambeth hut believing itself in the ascendancy nationally, needs to be engaged constructively. Such intra-faith debate will be assisted by Lambeth's avoidance of amhiguity. G L E LOCKE

Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: The Anglican bishops in Nigeria **Nursing ambitions** say that Christians' acceptance of homosexuality would mean Sir. With reference to your report evangelical suicide in Africa. I must "Alarm at shortage of new nurses" say that Bishop Chukwuma's

(5 August), my 22-year-old daughter returned from working otherwise, do nothing to help my ahroad in January and decided she wanted to become a nurse. bridge. They merely confirm most Our local hospital had an open peoples' idea that Christianity has day to recruit nurses. There was a long since ceased to be credible. large empty room with a few leaflets and two people to talk to.

They agreed my daughter was behaviour, however: I wonder what proportion of Anglicans really ideally qualified but did not have believe that non-adulterous sexual any application forms and sent her relations outside marriage are upstairs. She was informed that she had to apply through NMAS wrong? About the same proportion and was given a telephone number. as Catholics who believe contraception is a sin, I'd think. When telephoned, NMAS informed her that, as it was after December, she had to apply to the institution direct. She recontacted the

This means either that the church has a massive programme of re-education on sexual morality to undertake, or as a parishioner said to me yesterday, the majority of the gentleman in purple inhabit a universe of their own making. THE REVNEIL DAWSON London SW9

can be kept out of the House of

genetically engineered crops",

street. Now I understand - the

electorate is the study group.

Sir: I was recently asked by an

incredulous Canadian visitor

problem by lohbing them into

in England dealt with their snail

next-door's garden. I have taken

5 August) but not out of the high

Commons restaurant ("Eco-

warriors destroy field of

MPs are the controls!

a straw poll among my

SMARIC

notions about demons, gay or

evangelistic efforts in Knights-

Leaving aside homosexual

time later she received a reply

IN BRIEF

hospital who said they would put

application form. The form arrived

her on the waiting list for the

two months later. My daughter

filled it in and returned it. Some

acquaintances and can assure her that it is perfectly true. Unfortunately I have five neighbouring gardens, which I think explains why my snail population is currently increasing fivefold. MARYFINCH

whether it was true that everyone Sir: Thanks for putting down a marker (Leadingarticle, 5 August) for British curators who are seeking new audiences to their exhibitions. The

from the university running the course to say that they were not recruiting until the year 2000.

Wisely, she had not relied on this hospital and during January and February had obtained and returned about eight other application forms direct to nursing colleges and hospitals. One college carefully followed up all her references and then wrote to inform her that funding had been withdrawn from the course. Another posted a letter on a Tuesday, which arrived on Wednesday, expecting her to attend an interview at 9am on the Thursday some distance away. However, she persevered and by March sbe had been interviewed by a London hospital and was

delighted to be given a place. The saga continued. In July a letter came from one of the other hospitals ske had contacted five months previously asking her to an interview for a place in September. When she telephoned to decline

opened just after the Barbican

the best customised Harley-

closed its hugely popular "Art of the Harley", which featured 30 of

Davidsons on the road today. The

70,000 visitors who saw the show

revealed a very different profile

a large percentage of first-time

seemed to be tattooed and

dressed from head-to-toe in

can even if the Guggi can't.

Barbican, London EC2

JOHN HOOLE

visitors, quite a number of whom

hlaek (leather, not Armani). Even

if Cool Britannia might no longer

be flavour of the month, the Barbi

to our usual audience, containing

they admitted they had taken a long time over the applications.

The hospital that has now accepted her was also slow in replying to her initial application. Mind you, it had a really good excuse - it had been waiting to find out if it was going to be closed down! WENDYKRESS Great Missenden. Buckinghamshire

It isn't cricket

Sir: In 1960 I took a "catch" at first slip like the one that dismissed Ramprakash at Headingley on Thursday I was a capped player representing my West Riding school against bitter local rivals.

I appealed instinctively and instantly. The umpire signalled out. But I knab, in spite of my appeal, I had not caught the ball before it had grounded. I told the umpire. He recalled the batsman.

To this day, I am proud of that decision to play fair. To my grave, I will recall the excitement of fairly catching out the same hatsman three overs later with, what was for

In those days we kept the game alive because we played the game

in the spirit of the game. What is the point of today's competitions when the players don't care if the rules are observed and are party to the flouting of cricket's unique ethics? Don't professional "sportsmen" of all codes realise that they are responsible for the contempt in which most people hold professional "sport". Let's be honest and hring back the gladiatorial "games" of the imperial Rome. TERRYMARSTON South Hukeham, Lincolnshire

Salt water and tears

Sir. While I am intrigued by the possible transformation of insular Lincolnshire with Lincoln as an isthmus town, I was dismayed to readyour account of the Agriculture Select Committee's report and the wildlife lobby's welcome for its "Let the coastline flood" policy (6 August).

With respect to the massive potential body of inland water between Nottinghamshire. Doncaster and the Humber, the outcome of a "do nothing" policy is likely to be a mess rather than a wilderness. If the sea is allowed to invade, not only will several hundred kilometres of new coastline be created and commensurate coastal defences be required, but the area could become a saltwater sump as urban, agricultural and industrial pollutants from the region's major rivers accumulate behind the tidal ebh and flow of the Humber.

Constructing a barrage across the Humber might protect existing habitats, enabling the creation of a non-tidal freshwater "lake", rather than a brackish "sound", alongside the usual benefits of energy generation and transport. But, to enjoy such choices, zero tolerance of water pollution from all sources, in particular agricultural chemicals, would be essential. JOHN CLARK Berlin

Be brave, be bold

Sir: As the author of 16 children's books, may I say that I found Virginia Ironside's "advice" to the would-be children's author harsh (Dilemmas, 6 August). Whenever people ask my advice about becoming a journalist or an author I tell them, yes, it's tough on the street and you have to study the market, know the form, and prepare yourself for disappointment. But I also make a point of invoking Goethe's sublime statement of encouragement: "Whateveryou can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now." BELMOONEY

Lansdown, Somerset

Going for the burn to save the forests

continued from page I effective ground attack planes that made their name in the deserts of Iraq. In these post-Cold War days, you can even hire Russian Ilyushins, part of a 600-strong fleet that the now-private company has put on the market.

America's war on fire goes back almost a century; and the country turned to aircraft as early as the Twenties in ao effort to reach distant conflagrations deep in the forest. It now has a fast, high-technology armoury to deploy in an emergency. Catifornia, for example, has 16 800-gallon air tankers of its own, three massive 2,000gation private contract tankers, 11 helicopters and 13 light planes. It can appeal to neighbouring states, to the region, and then nationally for assistance, through the National Interagency Fire Centre in Boise. It can bring in people and machines from across the nation, from Canada, from the National Guard and the armed services.

Yet the fires of 1996 stretched even these resources to breaking point. They started in January in the south and did not burnt out until October. At the height of the hlazes, in August, more than 21,000 civilian and National Guard fire-fighters were on duty with Marine and Army hattalions.

There is something desperately romantic about the combination of fire and human endeavour. Flying the tankers is heroic work, though the men who do it say that they are not scared. Charles Bushey, a Montana fire-fighter, estimates that 136 tanker pilots have lost their lives in the last 50 years. The fire jumpers also face huge says Pyne. And the suppression of fire,

odds. One incident - the 1949 Mann Gulch fire, in which 13 jumpers lost their lives inspired both a feature film, Red Skies of Moniana, and Norman McLean's book. He describes the unique esprit de corps that binds jumpers together, these "tough young guys, pointed towards the woods for life". He writes of their "sense of belonging to a highly select outfit, somewhat like the Marines, who know what they are talking about when they speak of themselves as the proud and the few.

tt can be terrifying, but "the excitement outweighs the danger", says Mr Mueller, who counts a broken back amongst his injuries. At 37, he is one of the oldest Smokejumpers, and says he will give it another two years. "But then, I said that two years ago," he says sheepishly.

This Herculean effort, and its romantic image, has its critics. The massive assault that the US has launched on fire is deeply intertwined with the greater urge to control nature, and with an emphasis on military technology and military methods, writes Professor Stephen J Pyne, one of the foremost authorities on the subject.

"Fire control by the federal government began when the US cavalry rode into Yellowstooe Park in 1886. They were greeted with fires, which they fought." Yet this is highly irrational: "Warfare is not a good model for fire practices," he says, and though money, men and machines have been poured into fire-fighting, it is often to little effect. The Yellowstone firestorm sucked in huge resources "with no appreciable effect on fire size or behaviour",

which plays a vital role in the ecosystem, has had a catastrophic effect on the wildlands. He calls America's strategy "an environmental tragedy".

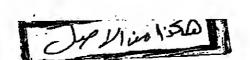
There has been a rethinking as the lessons of past seasons are learnt. In the early days fire-fighters worked by the rule of 10: a fire had to be limited to 10 acres, or under control by 10 o'clock the following day. "That put a priority on getting fires out without looking at the cost of doing so," says Denny Truesdale of the Forest Service. "If a fire's in a real wilderness, it's

doing very little damage." Cost has been one consideration in the new thinking: but in the last decade there has also been more thought given to the virtues of fire as an essential part of the natural cycle of destruction and regeneration. Without small and regular fires, there is a build-up of brush and dead vegetation in forests that amounts to a hidden bomb. Today's fires tend to be larger and more severe, precisely because fire has been so effectively suppressed in past years.

And the after-effects of fire can also be beneficial. Ten years on, Yellowstone Park has emerged from the inferno healthier and thriving. Regrowth has been far more rapid than expected, animals are feeding on fresh new food supplies, and the new forests are likely to be fireproof for a century, now that the deadfall has hurnt off. The Forest Service even carries out its own prescribed hurning. "We've lit more fires so far this year than we've put out," says Mr Mueller. "People have started to recognise the fact that we need fire," says Mr Truesdale. "We need to burn.



America turned to aircraft as early as the 1920s in order to reach fires deep in the forest



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*THE INDEPENDENT

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Releases must consider the victims' families

IN A world without God, who is to dispense forgiveness? Thomas McMahon murdered Lord Mountbatten and two teenage boys while on a fishing trip 19 years ago. This week he was let out of prison, the first of many for whom the Good Friday Agreement is a "Get Out Of Jail Free" card -free, that is, of remorse or reparation. Over the next few months, hundreds of prisoners will be released who have been convicted of more serious crimes than many left. behind bars in the UK and the Irish Republic.

The legal and political system is not in the business of forgiveness. McMahon has not been let out because he has been absolved, but because it was for the greater good of the people of Northern Ireland and, to a lesser extent, of the other parts of the British Isles. As part of a difficult, morally compromised process of supporting the IRA's decision - not yet fully acknowledged - to turn away from terrorism, letting murderers out early is an unpleasant necessity. It should be supported with a heavy heart as the least unacceptable option.

But there is a danger in such a historic moment as this that we overlook what the Prime Minister might call the "small picture". For every murderer released, there is a family suffering loss. The release of Mountbatten's killer is a symbolic moment - in much the same way as Mountbatten himself was a symbolic target for the IRA - because Prince Charles's "Uncle Dickie" was a figurehead. But McMahon did not just kill a leading member of the Royal Family - sad though that was - he killed Paul Maxwell, a15-year-old boatman, as well.

What was important yesterday was not the predictable outcry of a minority of the press and a minority of Unionist politicians. It was the measured response of Paul's father, John Maxwell, who said that keeping McMahon in jail would not bring his son back: "Peace is the imperative now, and we must look forward so that perhaps Paul's death and those of thousands of others from both sides of the political divide here will not have been entirely in vain."

It was the same brave sentiment as shown by the families of so many other victims of terrorism. The strength to look up from the small picture of personal grief to the big picture of a more peaceful future.

ness has any meaning in modern secular society, then it must be a matter of personal posite direction, and one of Jack Straw's seem to be at least as important as paper de-prisoners. Thomas McMahon is not, perhaps, es should go ahead.



of that - as a principle of jurisprudence - in agreement. As well as filling in forms apply- each prisoner is about to be set free.

ilies of their victims. This may sound a little crime is that of confronting offenders with those bers and their personal repudiation of the use and he repudiated the IRA before that could macchiato versus the cuppa. like an apology for the conventions of Islam- who have suffered from their depredations. of violence for political ends. Instead, the only be seen as a passport to release. But there will But it has to be said that the decline of tea ic law, which allow the relatives of the victim This is an approach that should have been acknowledgement of the interests of the vic- be much harder cases to come. In order to pre- is, to some extent, our own fault. We have failed to determine the sentence. We saw the defects carried through to the Northern Ireland peace time families is that they will be "notified" when pare for them, Mo Mowlam should do two to honour our heritage. The tea bag is now

the case of the British nurses in Saudi Arabia. ing for release, prisoners should perhaps be A better understanding of the feelings of vic- tims more say. And she should make it ab- hotels do not serve tea with tea leaves and a But it is nevertheless the case that western writing statements addressed to the relatives tims might help all of us come to terms with solutely clear that there will be no mercy for tea-strainer any more. It is time to launch the legal systems have moved too far in the op- of their victims expressing regret. That would the inevitable injustices of the early release of re-offenders. On those conditions, the releas- campaign for real tea and for the revival of the

things. She should give the families of their vicubiquitous. Even the posbest restaurants and

Terrorism is our responsibility, too

IF ANYONE thought that terrorism was on the decline, or had been limited to a few trouble spots, yesterday's car bombs outside the United States' embassies in two African capitals should dispel that optimism. The explosions in Nairohi and Dar es Salaam confirm that the description of the US as the world's sole superpower exaggerates the omniscience and omnipotence of the richest country in the world. They demonstrate that those seeking vengeance, for whatever reason, have the reach and the means to attack soft targets anywhere. It does not take large numbers of people, or large amounts of money. or a great deal of skill to launch terrorist attacks - all it takes is a sense of mission and a cheap air ticket

Any industrial democracy is faced by the problem that however much it may defend its obvious targets, there will always be others, and that the price of adopting any role whatsoever on the world stage is exposure to a permanent and immaneot threat of bloody, localised mayhem.

It is much too early, however, to begin to apportion blame or draw lessons, save for the obvious. The first is that there will always be a tension between the ideal of free, passportless global travel and El Al-style intrusive security measures. The second is that terrorism is a shared responsibility, and that the nations of the world must share more information about the threats - given that almost all of them arise from some kind of known ideological obsession, even the US's own internal terrorism, such as the Oklahoma bombing. Yesterday it was US embassies: tomorrow it could be ours.

More tea, please

MORE TEA, vicar? Sadly not, these days. We are losing our taste for our national drink. The Tea Council is worried. The Tetley tea men are fretting. The PG chimps are screeching with anxiety. They are right to be. Tea sales have been slipping over many years. One of the more regrettable consumer fads of the 1990s has been the invasion of ersatz American-style coffee bars, all stainless steel and froth and cool. Their meretricious charms have proved all too attractive to us, especially for those who want to live out a Sleepless in Seattle fantasy mestyle in wapping or wolvernampton. It looks all too much like a re-run of the grey squirrel versus the native red or McDonald's reconciliation between criminals and the fam- more promising ideas at the level of small-scale clarations of which organisations they are mem- the hardest example: he has served 19 years versus the chippie. Now it is the espresso

old British tea house.

Asian values have nothing to do with generals in the grip of madness

same cramped cell in Rangoon's Insein jail. It is one of Asia's most notorious prisons. Murder, torture, starvation, sexual obuse. Insein has all of that and more. It is less a building than an all-consuming darkness. The story of the four prisoners - told by a former inmate - offers a brutal illustration of the point

One night, after the four men had been locked in, two of them made an effort to stay awake after their colleagues had fallen asleep. They then took loosened bricks from the wall and beat the sleeping men

Was this the result of a typical prison vendetta? Had they Tallen out over money or drugs? On the contrary. When admitting their crime the two murderers made a point of saying that they had no argument with their dead cellmates. The murders had been carried out simply to establish their status among the wider prison population. The dead men had just been unlucky enough to share the cell with two of the jail's more ambitious criminals. With two "kills" to their credit they immediately rose in the jail ranking, earning the respect of their warders and fellow convicts. According to one surpivor of Insein, the two were ven appointed to the prison ad-

ministration board. Those who know Burma are unlikely to be surprised by this story. It is in fact a useful

THE FOUR prisoners shared the metaphor for the state itself: a place where kindness and decency are vices, where greed and brutality are virtues. It is more than the law of the jungle. Nowhere among wild animals will you find the specialised cruelty of Burma's torturers. The country of the Generals

is not a nation state; it is what I like to call a psychotocracy, a country in the grip of a madness. This state of mind has been created by a military clique who seem immune to logic and impervious to pressure. Any sane mind can see that if there are no negotiations the Burmese will, sooner or later, rid themselves of these dictators. It may take years but the reckoning when it comes will not be pleasant. The wise, sensible and self-preserving thing for the regime to do would be to talk while there is time. But the Junta has spurned negotiation and relies now on the brutality of places like Insein to

keep the population cowed. Ten years ago today the people stood up against the military and were hrutally crushed. On the streets of Rangoon the guns of the army cut down thousands of protesters. There was no live television coverage, what images we did see were smuggled out. The true picture of that awful period only emerged ever time as survivors fled to neighbouring countries. They brought stories of massacre and detention but still, they promised, the spirit of democracy was alive.



FERGAL KEANE

White South Africa produced courageous leaders. There is no sign of that in Burma

The point was forcefully demonstrated two years later when the army - against all expectations - allowed free elections and the National League for Democracy of Aung San Suu Kyi won an overwhelming victory. More than 80 per cent of the vote! It was the kind of mandate democratic politicians dream about. And this for a tons: soaring new skyscrapwoman with no guns, no goons and no bribes to give. What Aung San Sau Kyi offered was something closer to true Asian values than any of the guff spouted by Mahatir Mohammed and the other apologists for authoritarianism Hers was the language of tol-

had only to spend a few hours

name when they can. I first met her on the morn-

ing after she'd been released from house arrest - 10 July, 1995. It was my first visit to Burma, a hurried dash from Hong Kong along with scores of other correspondents. She gave me her first broadcast interview explaining that she had followed South Africa's transition to democracy by listening to my voice on the BBC World Service. But any temptation to swooning on my part was quickly cut short. Her interview was a concise and powerful political statement. Set the people free, she said, let them enjoy the democracy they voted for. The Junta did nothing of the sort. Instead it has been steadily tight-

eming the repression. But maybe there is cause for hope now. When I lived and worked in Asia nearly two years ago it was hard to find anyone who believed that a regional economic crisis was looming. That was the age of the gluters, acres of new golf courses, the finest cognacs flowing as one dodgy deal followed another It was an ugly time and Burma's generals were some of the biggest snouts in the trough. It was party time for the rich and powerful and their intellectual fad that celebrated western friends. I vividly reerance and gentleness. One member drinking with an American businessman in a in Burma to recognise her ex- Rangoon hotel and being told

"The Lady" and whisper her Englishman treated me to hinch at an old colonial club and boasted of the fine standard of living he enjoyed in that land of multiple brutalities. Not that he was short of justifications for his presence. I had to endure the usual twaddle about investment helping the poor, the "constructive engagement" line about dialogue being the best

way forward

Whenever I asked one of these princes of industry if they'd met with the democratically elected leader they looked at me blankly. No, they preferred to do deals with the Junta. Money was their business, not liberty or justice. Some of these foreigners liked to fall back on the "philosophy" of Asian values. The Burmese, like other Asians, wanted strong government, they said. "It is their culture," one investor explained. Culture my eye. For most of these businessmen "Asian values" pro-

vided a useful alibi. One of the most depressing features of that period was the singular failure of western leaders to mount any defence of liberal values. Too many of them were mesmerised by the Asian "miracle". Some of the brightest commentators and politicians fell victim to an soaring growth but failed to point up the croneyism, op-pression and sleight of hand on which so much of it was built. traordinary claim on the peo- that only the army stood be- Now that the bubble has burst ple's affections. They call her tween Burma and anarchy. An and the poor are suffering more

than ever we can see "Asian values" for what they were.

When Robin Cook launched his ethical foreign policy, the Burmese people took him at his word. To its credit the Labour government has signalled a much tougher attitude towards the regime. But if Burma is to become an issue that dominates the European foreign policy agenda, then Mr Cook himself must become engaged. Up to now, day-to-day running of Burma policy has been left in the hands of Derek Fatchett. He is both capable and engaged, but he lacks the political clout of Mr Cook

We must remember the fun-

damental fact of political life in this former British colony; an armed group is preventing the democratically elected leader from assuming her rightful place at the head of the people. It is very very simple. There is no grey area here. As the former colonial power Britain should be leading the way in opposing this wretched state of affairs. I don't believe the Junta is entirely impervious to pressure, any more than white South Africans were. The difference, of course, is that white South Africa produced courageous leaders who recognised the need for change. There is no sign of that in Burma. The ultimate test of the regime's sanity will lie in its willingness to change before there is an explosion of anger. After decades of terror the Burmese deserve



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DAVID SHAYLER'S REVELATIONS

Judgements as to whether the former MI5 employee was right to reveal the activities of Britain's secret services

THE GUARDIAN

THERE HAVE long been rumours of Mr Shayler's claim that, in 1996, MI5 ran, and bungled, a covert operation to assassinate Muammar Gadafy. We, along with the entire British press, did not publish it because we posed when the former agent first

surfaced last autumn But yesterday Mr Shayler's allegations entered the public domain, via an article in the New York Times. It seemed to us absurd to continue to keep British readers in the dark on the actions of a secret service which we pay for and which acts in

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DID THE British government try to assassinate Colonel Muammar Gadafy, the Libyan leader, in February 1996, by planting a bomb under his motorcade? Britons may never know the answers, or even the credibility of the assertions, but for the last few days the nation has been consurned by the questions. Or, at least, sort of consumed, because news organisations are not really allowed to ask them. The media has been forced to discuss allegations without actu-

ally saying what the allegations are. The case is threatening to turn into a repeat of the infamous Spycatcher case of 1986. Now, with the only a matter of time before Shayler's allegations are disseminated. Even so the government has taken the harshest possible stand against the

THE EVENING STANDARD

MR SHAYLER, for all his extravagant claims, remains an unconvincing witoess. On his latest assertion, about an alleged British bomb plot to kill Colonel Gaddafy, two politically incorrect observations are possible. First, if the story is true, it is strongly against Britain's interests that it should have heen revealed. And second, if the plot was real and had succeeded and remained secret, in Opposition.

SIS would have done more to justify its budget than anything it has achieved since mid-Cold War.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

were gagged by a tight injunction im- MR SHAYLER'S claims are, at best, utterly incoherent. But even if they were all true, that would be beside the point. Let us not overlook the obvious: secret services are supposed to be secret. Secrecy engenders the trust that is vital for MI5's success, both in recruiting agents and in cooperating with foreign services. Compromise that reputation, and you compromise everything. In a better world. David Shayler and his like would not be lionised: they would be horse-whipped.

BIRMINGHAM POST

CERTAINLY DAVID Shayler appears to belong to a new breed of personnel. He was never among the elite of MI5, that much is obvious, but even so its lowliest operatives would have access to sensitive material and, therefore, ought to be vetted in painstaking detail. When one surveys Mr Shayler, it is almost possible to believe that he might have secured his joh via a Guardian advertisement. He has now become what could be termed, in the spyspeak of le Carré, an embarrassment. In the new era of openness, adveot of the Internet, it is probably he has forced the authorities to bring down the weight of international law. in order to enforce secrecy. Never mind the illusion, in reality, nothing bas changed. A new corporate image might have been adopted, and the personnel are of a different type, but behind the facade, business goes on as usual and it is as murky as ever it was

TRIBUNE

It seems that history is about to repeat itself as Jack Straw prepares the way for a prosecution of MI5 dissident, David Shayler. Mr Shayler's crime? To call for the accountability and scrutiny of the security services that Labour demanded when

The week Monica testified

THE STRAITS TIMES Singapore

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton owes it to himself, and to a presidency that can boast some significant achievements, to come clean on a messy and long-drawn-out affair that cannot but leave behind an unsavoury taste, no matter what the actual outcome. However, given popular sentiment, much might be forgiven a President who seems to have nothing to hide, who has revived the economy, re-established the US as a peacemaker abroad, and still has an agenda for 1999 on such matters as social security health care and race relations. It would be tragic if all this were jeopardised - and the leader of the world's only superpower brought down - by the possible provenance of a stain on a cocktail party dress.

DEMOCRAT GAZETTE Arkansas

I CAN see him at the microphone, head slightly bowed, he looks up, lower lip quivering. "My fellow Americans," he begins. "I have sinned. I once again caused pain in my marriage, but Hillary and Chelsea have forgiven me, and I hope you will, too, because while I had an affair, I did not lie to you about it. I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky. I had sex with that other woman, Ms Linda Tripp. Somehow, in furtherance of the vast right-wing conspir-acy, she managed to transfer my DNA material from her body to Ms Lewinsky's dress. I never denied that I had a relationship with Tripp." (John R. Starr)

THE ECONOMIST

SOME REPUBLICANS hope that Mr Starr's report will focus America's attention on the president's long history of alleged misdeeds, and so create a climate favourable to impeachment. But the various Clinton scandals are so complicated that weaving them into one pattern of obstructing justice will be difficult; and focusing popular attention on them may prove even harder. Perhaps the president's best hope is that the more serious charges will not stick; and that, if he hangs tough, the audience will go home



THE REPUTATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Opinions regarding how Bill Clinton will be viewed by the American public if it comes to believe that he did in fact have a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and then lied about it under oath

THE DETROIT NEWS

A CREEPING suspicion has set in: Team Clinton has turned the rules upside down. It is to realize that all the soothsayers who have corrupt not by happenstance, but design. At the heart of our misgivings is the issue of whether deception is normal Bill Clinton. impugning George Bush's integrity, once chortled, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." True: And when a president presumes to fool the public on a daily basis, people's shame eventually turns into rage. (Tony Snow)

THE IRONTON TRIBUNE Ironton, Ohio

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S alleged dalliance with Miss Lewinsky is not just a sex case. It is an indictment of an attitude. Sex be-

MICHELLE DE BRUIN

Irish views on the banning of the champion

swimmer for tampering with a drugs test

tween consenting adults is fine. The problem is, adultery is not. The Clinton case is disturbing because Americans are starting predicted that the days of honor and morality are evaporating are right. But soon, we will look for heroes again. We will hunger for the good guys again, not those who are the most skillful at manipulating themselves out of trouble. That is the poll that will count.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

IN ITS latest trash-the-critics operation, the White House has said that the mere act of calling on the president to tell the truth means that Mr Clinton has been unfairly prejudged. It means something quite different, of course. Commentators and millions of skeptical citizens are basing their advice on

six years of observation and a longing for candor. This is a a president who has been delivered into crisis by the agency of his own

THE NEW STATESMAN

So it all boils down to politics. Short of total exoneration, Clinton will emerge very badly bruised from the Lewinsky business. But impeachment? the constitution says that a president has to be guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanours" to be impeached, and for the Republican majority in Congress to proceed with impeachment hearings would be a high-risk operation indeed; how many of them may have left semen-stained dresses in the wardrobes of other young women. (Andrew Stephen)

Editorial opinion on whether Nato should intervene to halt the Serbian army offensive against the Kosovo Liberation Army

civil war" between opposing

forces: the "anti-terrorist" Ser-

bian police against the "terror-

ist" Kosovo Liberation Army.

The ineffective attempts by

these so-called terrorists offer

Milosevic international justifi-

cation for his real war: the one

against the Albanian population.

THE MIRROR

HEAVEN KNOWS what Serb

forces hope to achieve by the

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

in the society. It is always the

weak link in a chain that hreaks

first, and in our society women

and children are the weak link.

So, inevitably, they will be the

first ones to suffer the brunt of

ST PETERSBURG

TIMES

Russia

A PROGRAM of ethnic cleans-

ing has been initiated in. of all

places, southern St. Peters-

hurg. Denis Usov, a 24-year-old

deputy in one of Kupchina's re-

cently elected neighbourhood

district councils, has initiated

a program to rid the area of

ethnic minorities, specifically

those from the Caucasus.

Usov has distributed leaflets

throughout his district, asking

citizens to report to him the

the existing situation.

an enhanced level of frustration addresses of suspicious-look-



LA STAMPA ltaly

THE LATEST act of the Yugoslav tragedy seems to be an evil repetition of the atrocities verified in the siege of Dubrovnik. the destruction of Vukovar and the massacres of Sarajevo and Srebrenica, Kosovo has been transformed into a demolished, nightmarish Utopia, a shrine to a defunct Serbia that has 100,000 Serbs besieged by about two million Albanians. Milosevic's war on Kosovo is yet another "fake

THE NATION

DEATH BY stove burning, a

trend imported from India, has

been in vogue since the start of

the Eighties as a convenient

way of getting rid of a wife who

has brought a small dowry or

refuses to fleece her parents for

more money at the behest of

her husband or in-laws. Now a

law has been passed to regis-

ter a case against the husband

and his family the moment

such an incident is reported.

usually leading to indictment of

murder or an attempt to mur-

Crime against women is by

no means declining. In fact, the

present state of affairs in the

country can lead to a worsen-

ing of the existing situation. The

recession in the economy is

going to lead to a higher level

of unemployment, resulting in

der if the lady survives.

and children. Rubbish tips filled with the corpses of innocent civilians will not cow the people they bope to conquer It will create an enmity that will cause generations of bloodshed. The terror they sow today they will reap tomorrow.

senseless slaughter of women

FRONTIER POST

APPREHENSIONS HAVE been voiced about the strategic effectiveness of an intervention by Nato in Kosovo. Some commentators have likened these fears to the pre-Gulf war jitters among the allies. This school of thought clearly favours a military invention to avert a bloodbath. And this seems to be the only viable option left for the international players to pursue, The West must avert a Bosnialike tragedy in Kosovo at all costs in the interests of international stability, as a destabilised Yugoslavia is a dangerous proposition

Pakistan

ing people of Caucasian na-

tionality "who are engaging in

anti-social and criminal ac-

tivities", so he can turn Ibem

TIMES OF INDIA

A GADGET that deletes swear

ing from video films and tele-

vision programmes should be

in the shops next year. At the

appropriate moment, it auto-

matically mutes the sound to

censor words and there is an

option to display more moder-

ate dialogue as a subtitle. The

device's software contains a dic-

tionary of 100 alert words along-

side a list of tamer substitutes:

"jerk" and "crud", for example,

are two catch-alls able to fill in

for a variety of profanities. The

phrase "go away" also gets a lot

over to the police.

ethics of sport can only end in

THE IRISH

INDEPENDENT

THE IRISH TIMES

AS A NATION, we desperately

wanted to believe that our

sporting heroes were a race

apart, more honourable and less

conniving, somehow immune

from the ills of modern profess-

ional sport. Today, Michelle de

Bruin is shown to have feet of

clay. Perhaps, that is no bad

thing. The ambivalence that has

clung to her achievements has

been removed by the ruling by FINA [the sport's ruling body].

Every promising teenage athlete

who dreams of glory has learned

a salutary lesson: any suspi-

cion of violating the rules and

THE SWIMMER'S family have already indicated that she will fight yesterday's decision "to the death" and it is certainly to be hoped that that fight is won. Ireland has known many great some beneficial consequences.

episodes in sport hut few will compare with the extraordinary week two summers back when a girl from Rathcoole simply dominated the swimming world. We gloried in her achievements back then and we should not abandon Michelle now. It is one of the quirks of doping law that the burden of proof rests with the defendant. not the prosecution. Under normal rules of justice she is innocent for the simple reason that she most certainly has not been proved guilty.

THE IRISH NEWS

IT IS UP to the authorities to ensure that their tests are rigorous enough to detect offenders at an early stage, but there is little evidence of this happening If the suspension of Ms de Bruin, the first in the 104-year history of the Irish swimming body, helps to prevent the use of drugs by others, the whole sorry saga could yet have at least

Views on how to react to Saddam Hussein's decision to break off co-operation with the work of the United Nations arms inspectors

SUDDEUTSCHE Germany

WE CAN rely on Saddam Hussein. Every few months, he freezes co-operation with UN-SCOM. Then there is a controversy in the UN Security Council which is solved by a compromise that UNSCOM will resume its inspections and chief inspector Richard Butler will promise an acceleration of inspections.

We are now in the first stage again. It seems true that Iraq no longer has significant arsenals of missiles and chemical weapons, and that its nuclear programme has probably also come to an end, but there is not sufficient information on the biological weapons in Iraqi depots. In this field, Iraq has lied, deceived and stonewalled. It is certainly true that the

Iraci population is suffering under UN sanctions. But Iraq used poison gas and biological weapons in wars which itself provoked. The Iraqis reluc-

UN controls only because of the But for the Iraqis there is merit permanent threat of the use of in making the world aware yet force. As long as Saddam continues to refuse to disclose the status of its ABC weapons.

Butler's mission cannot and should not end. KHALEEJ TIMES Dubai

aware that the world public's sympathy is even more emphatically with them and Mr Butler is cast in the role of being a willing instrument of American policy. The response of the US and Britain has been true to form, but Washington is aware of the increasing unpopularity of its resolve to fight the Saddam regime irrespective of the costs borne by the Iraqi people, and is seeking to galvanise the traditionally fractious opponents of the regime.

It would appear that neither Iraq nor the US would want to take the looming show-

tantly yielded and bowed to down to its logical conclusion. again that the inspection regime never ends and Iraqis are dying of malnutrition and lack of medicines in the mean320

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GULF TIMES

THE IRAQ1 authorities are IN THE absence of co-operation, the United States may again feel compelled to attack Iraq for non-compliance. Any such moves by America, however, would revive the international crisis witnessed just a few months ago. Clearly, Saddam must allow the UN workers to finish their job - it is the only way for Iraq to regain its membership internationally. The UN must also remember that the prolonged sanctions hurt the Iraci people more that anyone else. Both sides must overcome this impasse before its consequences

FILM OF THE WEEK

Re-release of the 1938 movie, 'Adventures of Robin Hood'

THE DAILY MAIL

MOVIEGOERS WITH lingering traces of humanity and a sense of humour may be wise to ignore Armageddon and rush instead to enjoy Errol Flynn in The Adventures of Robin Hood. Shot in glowing storybook colours which make it look unlike any other film, this is widely - and rightly - considered the definitive family swashbuckler. climaxing in one of the most exciting swordfights ever put on screen. (Christopher Tookey).

THE EVENING STANDARD

MADE BY Warner Brothers 60 years ago, The Adventures of Robin Hood still satisfies the sort of hunger that present day cinema all too often ignores; the hunger to be told a story. It's how they used to make adven- survivor. (Alexander Walker)

tures - big, fast, bold and not too seriously. Special effects are zero, psychology is basic, dialogue is no more than serviceable, characters have the clarity of cutouts. But the storybook spell falls on actors and action like a simple hlessing in a complex world. Cry your eyes out for out simply to entertain - then rub them in gratitude at this

gets a most welcome 60thanniversary renaissance. It has Flynn at the top of his game. Perhaps only Cary Grant and John Wayne ever looked so completely at home in their own akins as be does here, winning the day with a smile which knows that none of it is to be taken too seriously. There may be injustice to fight and a fair maiden's hand for the taking, but here is a man confident in the realisation that the day's shooting will soon be over

TIME OUT BORED WITH all the "hig"

summer movies? It's Errol Flynn to the rescue as this classic Hollywood adventure and the real business of the the days when most movies set cocktail hour awaits. The best fun you'll have in a cinema this year, for sure. (Trevor

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"What I am doing tomorrow is something I never, ever wanted to do, It breaks my heart," Monica Lewinsky, the night before her testimony to the Grand Jury

"Really well-rounded people don't make it to the top." Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada and chairman of the Arts Council

"I see no room in scripture or Christian tradition for any sexual activity outside matrimony of husband and Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

"While I respect that to affirm homosexual practices would be evangelical suicide, to condemn them would be evangelical suicide in my region." Catherine Roskam, Bishop of New York, at the Lambeth Conference

"I feel like a lover who has been abandoned and who fears she is about to discover a betrayal." Helen Wilkinson, co-founder of the Demos thinktank, on New Labour in government

If you see Big Tony, tell him I'll be on Bodmin Moor

YOU NOW have exactly one year to Something to do with stone circles loses the 2080 election. But I'll be book your place in the Millennium's and tides. final total eclipse of the sun. According to my celestial charts, the best place to be if you really want to get an eyeful is Bucharest. A guaranteed 2 minutes, 22.59 secands of pitch black The trouble with over Helston, twin children with that calculation is that it means being in Bucharest. Better to hare derly and infertile parents who hadoff down to Cornwall, I reckon, coming off the A30 at Bodmin, even if knows that full moons occasion riyou will thereby lose 22.14 seconds of our behaviour in Cornwall, but a always find a way of coming to of darkness. It's not just the phenomenon you go for, after all. It's

A. K. Mar House

THE STATES

also the people. And who better to be among or Tintagel were thrown when there than the Cornish when the planets start playing up? Don't ask me why, but they're more astronomically connected down there. Some Celtic or Druidical thing.

The Halley-Boo Cornet had every white witch in the county out. You couldn't move on Bodmin Moor for virgins in their nighties. Nine months after Telstar was spotted heavenly blue eyes were born to eling with streamers in your hair and n't coupled for a decade. Everyone half moon can get them going just terms with that. as well; and some of the wildest parties I've ever been to in Boscastle

was no moon around to speak of. Not being a reader of Nostradamus I don't know precisely what to expect of Britain's last total solar eclipse until Tony Blair

surprised if the Cornish don't seize upon it as another pretext for celebrating the end of the world. I lived in Cornwall for a number of years and we were always celebrating the end of the world. Why not? Wake up in a strange place the next mornchicken giblets in your pockets only to discover that the world hasn't ended after all-well, you can

The most committed planetary end-of-the-worlder I ever met in Cornwall wasn't himself Cornish. He was from Walthamstow. Big Tony. A huge, bearded shmaltzhall of a man - a cross between Father Christmas, Falstaff, Chas and Dave, and Oliver Reed - who ran



HOWARD JACOBSON

the winter and drove down to Cornwall in a van loaded with cheap sunglasses the moment the sun so much as winked from behind a cloud. He was how we knew the sun

was coming. We measured the sea- that you could mark up sunglasssons by him. He was our harbinger I met him while I was in the em-

ploy of my wife, systematically lowering the standard of her craft shon. All very nice, the stoneware teapots and the hand-blown wine goblets at forty smackers a throw. but where were the bunce lines, the Chinese paperweights, the slate paintings, the plaster of Paris pixies? I'd grown up in a market trader family. I liked to see the gear moving out. So when Big Tony blew into the village with a vanload of sort-of-Raybans and a collection of glitzy carousels to display them on, I couldn't say no to him. I took

My wife sent every last pair back. And the carousels. The fact you can see the sun through women

es by anything up to a thousand per cent didn't cut any ice with her. She wasn't in it for the money. But then neither was Big Tony. They were both in it for the sun.

He loved whatever you could see the sun through. Champagne, chablis, tequila sunrises. He loved whatever you could smell the sea on also. Oysters, lobsters, caviar. He would come for a night and stay for a week, drinking the village dry eating seafood faster than the fishermen could catch it. Hearing his vanload of crappy sunglasses rattling from as far away as Bude. wives would hide their husbands under the beds. Do I have that the wrong way round? No. Lover of women though he was - because

too, if you know which way to hold them - he loved laughing with men even more. There was an atmosphere of Dionysiac knees-up about him. The trouble was, every other man's knees buckled long before his. After a week of Big Tony the village looked as though it had been hit by famine and plague. And a mysterious outbreak of male migraine

He gave it all up himself, in the end to become an artist. Since when I haven't seen him. But I'm banking on running into him on Bodmin Moor when the sun goes black. Solar eclipses are dangerous things - someone has to be out there selling protective glasses. And should it turn out to be the end of the world after all, he'll be just the man to toast the final dying of

Stone Age man had the time of his life

TEN YEARS ago we would have thought that this man was the type who, on finding his mother dead one morning, might roll her body into a shallow trench before heading off, grunting, to catch his lunch, or perhaps drag a woman by the hair back to his cave.

Not so. This week it was revealed that Stone Age humans living at Carrowmore, County Sligo in Ireland about 7,400 years ago huilt the earliest tombs yet identified in Western

A tomb is a significant thing: it indicates respect for the dead (which to any other animal is just new meat) and that you are prepared to take time huilding and preparing a special place for them. The Carrowmore find includes the bones of up to 50 cremated people lying in a free-standing stone huilding at the centre of three concentric stone circles, each stone carefully chosen for size. This was no lean-to: it was the fruit of real devotion.

Allied to that finding, in re cent years we have discovered that so many of our other preconceptions about the people who lived in the Stone Age (more properly known as the Mesolithic eras were wrong. Grunting, male-dominated unsophisticates? Not at all. They had a spoken language perhaps as rich as ours, for their mental capacity was the same. They lived communal lives in which women had an important place. This was a population that had a balanced diet, and chewing gum (made from birch bark tar, and favoured by tecnagers) to go with it. They had an enviable, healthy lifestyle that only required them to "work" (that is, hunt)

SATURDAY PROFILE

MESOLITHIC MAN

two or three days a week, and where summer fashions could include a coat made from

They were about as tall as us; they lived almost as long (though more children would have died young). But they didn't have mobile phones, traffic jams, or impenetrallywrapped sandwiches.

Yet while our pre-agricultural ancestors may have been technologically naive, they had a satisfactory life.

"The common misconception is that they were living on the edge of starvation, in small groups, wandering around from place to place," says Peter Rowley-Conwy, Reader in Archaeology at the University of Durham. "But we know from studies of sites and environmental conditions then that life was probably a good deal easier for most people, for the most part, than convention has it."

Following the end of the Ice Age and the retreat of the ice sheets from Britain and Ireland about 10,000 years ago, the weather was a degree or two warmer than now (a fact revealed by ice core samples from the Arctic), and the land was covered with fast-growing trees taking advantage of the rich soil. For a hunter-gatherer, food was plentiful: "There were five large animal species to hunt - elk, roe deer, red deer, wild boar and aurochs, the wild cattle," says Dr Rowley-Conwy. That offered a reliable food supply because they won't all have a bad year at the same time. There were plants, fruits

and berries as well. And there was always fishing, both in the sea and rivers."

Nor were they condemned to a peripatetic life. Instead, archaeologists have uncovered encampments, whose size varies from 25 to 50 inhabitants in the interior (where fishing would not provide a resource) to between 100 and 200 at the more fecund coastal regions. Rather than skulking in caves, they made buildings from branches covered with animal skins.

The period is called the "Mesolithic" for the flint tools "liths" - uncovered in numerous digs around Europe. Making stone tools was a communal effort, in which even the children would take part, learning from adults how to make the implements they would later use to tip weapons, to grind and crush food such as berries, and skin animals.

That may seem ordinary. But what marks out Mesolithic humans is the respect that they paid to their dead.

The significance of burying vour dead, and having a tomb, is hard to underestimate. "This is one field where archaeology has really changed our views in this century," says Dr Rowley-Conwy. "What we now realise is that hunter-gatherers had a very very rich spiritual life. After all, their mental capacity was exactly the same as mars " (The surrelated Neanderthals, with a limited mental and linguistic capacity, had died out 20,000 years before.)

"Some excavations in York-

shire have found skulls of deer

lasting monuments.

with the antiers still intact, hut with a couple of extra holes drilled into them." Dr Rowley-Conwy notes. "The thinking is that people, perhaps the shamans in the tribe, used to put them on in rituals of some Talk of rituals, and spiritual life, and Stonehenge of

course comes to mind. Among its enduring mysteries is that of its location. "It is not next to the river, not the highest hill, not the deepest valley," says Andrew Lawson of Wessex Archaeology. But re-examination in 1996 of a circle of 20-foot pine stakes at the site, which were first discovered in 1966, could offer the answer. Carbon-dating suggests that the stakes were placed in 8,000BC - almost as soon as the islands were habitable. They would have looked just like totem poles and performed the same function monuments to gods or chiefs,

at a ritual site. When first found, they were largely ignored by scientists, who reckoned Mesolithic people would not build such structures. Now we know better. Mesolithic humans had the time and the intelligence, and - most important - the religious imperative. When you consider the building projects, sometimes lasting decades, that their descendants undertook to site cathedrals all over Europe, the greater surprise is that anyone doubted that Stone Age peoples could put up such

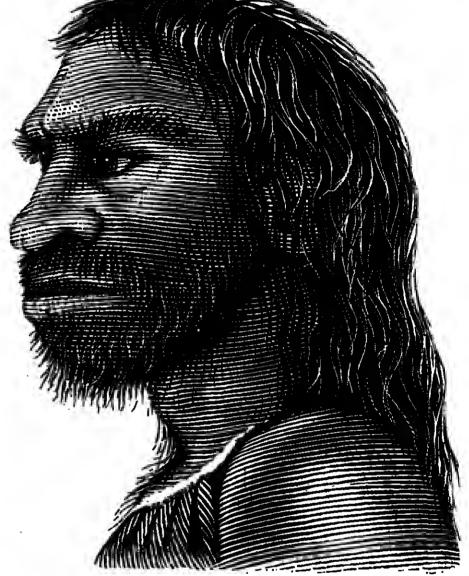
It was in some ways the endless summer: communal prop-

erty, no capitalism (for there was little need to trade) and only the occasional territorial skirmish with other tribes for hunting rights to a forest or river. Women had an important role, reckons Dr Christopher Meiklejon of the department of anthropology at Winnipeg University. "Women had a political power in these societies," he notes. After all, the females were the ones who kept the tribes alive, though there are no surviving details to say whether polygamy or polyandry (multiple husbands) were practised. (Both are found in primitive tribes today.) "There is evidence to suggest that women lost most of their political power, and for them thing got worse, with the arrival of agriculture." This phase lasted for about 2,000 years.

Farming began in the Middle East and gradually spread, displacing or incorporating hunter-gatherers. Agriculture can support more people per square mile, and is an entirely settled lifestyle.

Yet men as well as women suffered by the arrival of agriculture. "Farming presents a worse-quality diet, because you're only eating a couple of basic crops," says Dr Rowley-Conwy. "And it has a worse effect on your teeth because you're grinding down wheat, which will have stones in it. rather than tearing meat. Hunter-gatherer skeletons have hetter teeth and are taller." The average early farmer was only about 5' 3" tall - the result of undernourishment, not genes.

New diseases also arrived, from viruses carried by animals that were being domesticated. Among those was



Alan Jackson

smallpox, which was only eradicated in the past decade.

Indeed, there are many signs that the hunter-gatherers regarded the incoming farmers with all the affection of Millwall fans encountering their Chelsea counterparts after a had loss. Some later farmers' settlements were fortified, but it's hard to say whether there was outright war, more that the farmers came, saw and their method conquered Some groups appear to have traded (bartering furs and tools for food) while others seem to 9,000-year-old skeleton from have preserved antipathy.

Eventually it was a cooling of the climate which meant that the hunter-gatherer life (if not the people) was gradually displaced, over about 1,000 years. away from the interior towards the coastlines where ready food was more plentiful. And then it finally died out, leaving us with our world today. Even so, when we look at

Mesolithic man or woman, we see ourselves. Their DNA is the same (so much so that a

the Cheddar Gorge shows a direct line of maternal descent to a teacher living there). All that has changed is our environs. We, like they, have temples and tomhs, and tribes and affiliations. If we are increasingly coming to respect Stone Age man, it is perhaps hecause we are recognising that in many ways, he knew the good life. Can we say the same today?

CHARLES ARTHUR

I too thought the unthinkable - and failed

SATURDAY ESSAY by ALFRED SHERMAN

FRANK FIELD'S current tribu- both more crucial than ideas in lations are widely interpreted is a Promethean penalty for "thinking the unthinkable", a dictum of mine from the heady days of the early Centre For Policy Studies, whose wider currency I owe to Dr Richard Cockett's book of that name on the mixed fortunes of think-

Malters are not as simple as that. But first, a backward glance at the phrase's origins. I adduced it when I was elaborating the modus operandi of the nascent centre as the second of four linked dicta. The first three were: "Question the unquestioned; think the unthinkable; blaze a trail." The first requires intellectual courage and readiness to challenge intellectual vested interests.

Unless you first clear the ground of outmoded beliefs which have failed the pragmatic test, there is no room for the unthinkable, which may often be new, but may also be older wisdom forgotten and rediscovered. (For example, we ignore the Victorians' distinction between deserving and undeserving poor at our peril. To think the unthinkable requires moral courage. Most people at most times and places are conservative, particularly those who benefit from the status quo, which is inextricahly bound up with existing ideas and beliefs. (Beliefs are ideas which are taken for granted and for that reason are since I had drafted some radi-

determining behaviour in public affairs and private life, and more difficult to dispel by new ideas, since they are hidden deeper in the consciousness and protected by mental habit.)

Thinking the unthinkable provides an impulse for action to bring reality into line with thought; otherwise, what is the point in fresh thinking, which only generates frustration? Blazing a trail calls for political courage. Safety lies with the herd; to leave it entails risk. Conviction is needed.

But that is only the beginning. At the time, I defined the innovator's role as bringing to patron or public those ideas or factual sequences and explanations which they had not heard before but which, once stated, impressed themselves as obvious, or at least worthy of rode the tide to the party leada hearing. Only this could generate the initial impetus needed to shake the walls of Jericho reinforced by interlocking layers of ideas, beliefs and vested interests.

That was the position in the spring of 1974, when the Conservatives were deeply shocked by their defeat at the hands of Scargill's flying pickets and wondered whether civilisation as we knew it was not coming to an end. Keith Joseph's three words - "we were wrong" - started an avalanche. Clearly, the mood was there, awaiting arousal.

He turned to me for help

cal speeches and articles for him in 1969-70 before election victory swallowed him alive in the DHSS. Once again, I persuaded him to reach out to the party's mood of frustration by a radical analysis of defeat.

What was soon to be known as "Thatcherism" was born. But as Machiavelli warned, great reforming projects seldom come to fruition, because all vested interests which might risk losing from change are in place and aware of interest, whereas most prospective benefactors are dispersed and

When Margaret Thatcher, wbom Jospeh had co-opted into the centre and endowed with his unthinkable thoughts, ership, the party grandees and Conservative Research Department, then under Christopher Patten, diluted her reforming zeal. It was further diluted and frustrated after election victory in 1979 placed ber in the hands of the civil service and Establishment. The native hue of resolution was sicklied o'er. Paradoxically, whereas the defeats of 1974 generated the radical tide of Joseph-Thatcherism. the victories of 1975, 1979 and

grin remained. At the CPS, I had a wonderful "unthinkable" in our locker. Was the economy really amen-

1983 dissipated it, till only the



Sir Alfred Sherman: ideologue of the Tory right

money supply, as every governopposition queried since the late Forties? Keith Joseph had said "No!" in his Monetarism is not Enough, with a commend-

able to control through manip- ment continued the neoulation of the interest rate or Keynsian monetary squeeze imposed by Deois Healey at the ment had believed, and every IMF's behest in 1976, with even greater intensity and Friedmanite rhetoric. The syndrome has survived the Tories' consequent misadventures and atory foreword by Thatcher. fall. On the BBC's Newsnight But in 1979, the new Govern- this week, a trades union

leader, John Edmonds, complained that whereas the late John Smith, when shadow Chancellor, had excoriated the Government's unique dependence on interest-rate policy as a "one golf chub" policy. Gordon Brown was still practicing it. This indicates the resistance of established ways to critical thought, just as bacteria survive antibiotics. After the 1983 election

(which was much less of a victory than it appeared at first sight, since it did not increase the Conservatives' share of the poll even when faced by Foot's depleted ranks), the CPS was de-Shermanised to bring thinking the unthinkable, which a complacent Government was beginning to find irksome, to an leagues is recommendation end. At the time, we had plenty of unthinkable questions in our war chest. Does all evidence, as well as logic, not question the certainty that transport subsidies diminish congestion and pollution and are socially progressive? Is a statutory school leaving age of 16 sustainable?: Have rent control, slum clearance, council housing and town and country planning not done more harm than good, particularly to those strata in whose name they were undertaken? Can the NHS conceivably survive in the long term?

Once it ceased to question the

the elixir needed to counter the onset of political mortality. The rest is history. The born-again messianism of the Seventies gave way to the tired, defensive jacks in office of the Nineties. This time round, the defeated Tories have no Keith Joseph, Margaret Thatcher (or, dare I say it, Alfred Sherman) to raise the standard of intellectual revolt. Like Edward Heath in his day, they eschew a self-critical view of their failed policies and hlame the voting public.

But politics abhors a vacuum. The prophet's mantle descended hriefly on Frank Field. Not one in 20 of those who hail him could tell you what his thoughts actually are, but that is largely irrelevant: that he is credited with thinking the unthinkable and embattled with his col-A few years ago, he was well

in advance of his comrades, who in opposition promised the moon, in recognising that curing poverty was not simply achievable by spending more money. But that is now common ground in the Government. whose commitments ineluctably outrum its income. Though the poor still enjoy vociferous support on Labour back benches and the churches when not otherwise engaged they command less votes than

most claimant groups. Neither Field nor his colunquestioned and think the un- leagues - nor, for that matter,

thinkable, Thatcherism lacked the Tories - have thought the unthinkable to the point of moving heyond institutional concepts and measures. eg systems of welfare-payments, fraud prevention and provision of work opportunities, to the nature of the welfariat, what Marx dubbed the "lumpenproletariat", and British reformers called "the submerged tenth". This entails identifying the socio-psychological characteristics which perpetuate them as a social class, an indispensable key to changing their nature and condition. This is ignored in the government Social Exclusion Unit's terms of reference, which treat the lumpeoproletariat purely as objects, or victims, and ignore the paradox which was identified by De Tocqueville as long ago as 1850, that with increasing affluence poverty becomes both more chronic and more

> Alas poor Frank! We should also spare a tear for Harriet Harman. Unlike him, she did not think the unthinkable but actually did it, at Blair's behest, trimming welfare to the welfariat, particularly the welfaremothers. Having attracted all the obloquy for the policy to herself personally, she was expelled into the wilderness, the archetypal scapegoat, while Frank ascends to heaven, extolled or consoled on all sides Meanwhile, the need to think the unthinkable remains as

Nat Gonella

"I HAD three wives. I don't know if strong records that were to change ceived was from female admirers, althat helps." The trumpeter Nat Gonella was reflecting on the reasons that he was still alive and entertaining audiences at 90. By then he'd been a star attraction for more than 70 years.

"He was like Louis Armstrong in his personality, as well as in his playing," said Humphrey Lytteltoo.

There was no side about either of them and they were both basically modest people. Nat will he remembered for his close links to Louis's music, but I like to remember his own originality and humour. He had his hig hits like 'Tiger Rag' and 'Georgia On My Mind' but I treasure his spirited originals like T'd Like to See Samoa of Samoa'.

"Despite his continuous popularity over all those years there was nothing hig-time about Nat. When he was 70 one of his recordings. 'Oh Monah' became a very hig hit in Holland. He was interviewed on the BBC at the time and the interviewer asked him if this was the re-launch of his career. Nat was horrified. 'No,' he said. 'I'm an old man. The house is paid for, the car'a paid for, the wife's paid for. I'm not going hack on the road."

Gonella was one of seven children. His father originally drove a hansom cab and then became one of the first of London's motorised taxi drivers. He died in 1915 when Gonella was six and his mother, unable to support their children, had to place him and a brother and sister in an orphanage. Gonella and another boy tried to escape but were held in a north London police station. The master who retrieved them made them first remove their braces. They were marched back to the school with their hands in their pockets to keep their trousers up.

Despite Gooella's disapproval of it, it was a good school with its own hrass hand. He joined the band when he was nine, as a drummer, but soon graduated to playing the cornet. His brother Bruts Gonella also played in the band and was later to join Nat Gonella's Georgians.

Gonella suffered from rheumatic fever and had to spend six months in the school hospital. He was left with a weak heart that frustrated his attempt to join the army when he left the school. He became an errand boy until he saw in the Stage an advertisement calling for young brass players.

A successful audition led to him switching to trumpet and joining Archie Pitt's Bushy Boys, a touring band led by the husband of Gracie Fields, Gonella appeared with the group in a musical show A Week's Pleasure. Fields worked as a choreographer for the show.

She and Gonella became friends nettist Bix Beiderbecke. This was Gonella's introduction to jazz, and he soon began to find the Louis Arm-

his life

A Week's Pleasure ran for two and a half years and when it finished Gonella toured for a further 18 months with another of Pitt's shows, Safety First. When the tour finished he joined a show band led by Bob Dryden, playing seasons in Margate, Manchester and Belfast before joining Billy Cotton's band in 1929 for a season at the Streatham Locarno dance hall. He made his first recordings with Cotton and also worked in the bands of Lew Stone, Roy Fox and Ray Noble and then formed his own band, the Georgians. He married his first wife. Betty, in 1930.

Louis Armstrong came to Britain in July 1932 to play for two weeks at

'Nat was horrified. "No." he said. "I'm an old man. The house is paid for. the car's paid for, the wife's paid for. I'm not going back on the road"'

the London Palladium. Gonella and his brother managed to hear every one of Armstrong's performances and it was then that Gonella's friendship with Armstrong began. In 1934 a record appeared on Decca described as Jozz Orchestra with Hot Trumpet. It was Gonella's first recording of Hoagy Carmichael's tune "Georgia on My Mind" and it became both an enduring hit and Gonella's signature tune, also providing him with the name for his hand.

The Georgians had begun as a small group within Lew Stone's hig band, hut it soon became a separate unit. As such it made its debut at the Newcastle Empire in 1935. As Gonella's popularity burgeoned, he and the band played to full houses in theatres all over the country, hroadcast regularly and made several film appearances, including Pity the Poor Rich (1935) and later, with the Mills Brothers, Sing As You Swing (1937).

His version of "Tiger Rag" was a continuing hit and Parlophone used it on a trumpet tuition record they issued to tie in with Gonella'a book Modern Style Trumpet Playing. published in 1935. He became established as the outstanding figure in British Jazz and inspired a genand when she replaced her eration of musicians, including playgramophone she gave Gonella her ers like Humphrey Lyttelton. The old one and with it his first jazz. Georgians toured in Holland at the records, including one by the cor- end of the year and Gonella's popularity there was to last for the rest of his life.

though a magazine feature on him called "The Girls Who Want To Marry Me" had nothing to do with the collapse of his marriage in 1936. Such was the demand for his music that be made 57 recordings in thal vear alone. In 1937 he made 64 "platters", as they were then known, and in one of them was joined by George Formby, who also appeared for a short time in one of Gonella's shows. The vocalist with the band was a film starlet, Stella Moya,

whom Gonella later married. When the band was playing at Sherry's Ballroom in Brighton in 1938, Fats Waller was appearing at the local Hippodrome. The American sat in with Gonella's hand at the ballroom and they played his "Hon-eysuckle Rose" for an hour. The management of the Hippodrome was not arrused and fined Waller £50 for breaking his contract.

In December 1938 Gonella and Stella Moya went to New York where he heard many of the legendary jazz players and met many of his heroes including Armstrong again, Billie Holiday and the rising trumpet star Harry James. Gonella played with John Kirby's band at the famous club, the Hickory House.

In August 1939 the Georgians toured in Sweden and Holland, War broke out and the band had to break up to try to get back to Britain. Gonella and his wife managed to get to Cannes and were there when the Italians bombed the town. They left eventually on a small collier jammed with refugees. The ship had two torpedoes fired at it by an enemy submarine before it arrived in Liverpool seven days later. In 1940, despite the shortage of musicians caused by the call-up into the services, Gonella formed a bigger band called the New Georgians. He and Stella Moya married that summer

Despite his heart problems Gonella was called into the Piooeer Corps in July 1941 and his income immediately dropped from £150 a week to 10 shillings. Towards the end of the year the Army formed "Stars In Battledress" and Gonella was enrolled in this along with Charlie Chester, George Melachrino and other entertainers. But it didn't last and Gonella was returned to the Pioneer Corps and sent to Africa. When the band of the Royal Tank Regiment played nearby, they coopted Gonella as a guest and then arranged for his transfer to the Tank Corps. He travelled with the band through North Africa, Sicily and

At the end of the war he formed a 13-piece band in which be emulated the style of Harry James. His second marriage had broken up and in 1946 he met his third wife, Dorothy, although they did not marry until many years later. The demand for Gonella's music had sub- a friend offered him a part-time job sided after the war and his hig band in a bookmaker's office, he took it. declined until eventually it became a quartet. Gonella then tried to suaded him to put together a six-Most of the fan mail that he re- play in the newly developed Bebop piece group in the Louis Armstrong



style, but his band was a complete

"I had the first modern jazz band in the country, two years before anyone else. I used to drive myself mad trying to blow that stuff. My missus calls its gas oven music. I used to listen to those old Bebop records and we used to churn it out, but it wasn't any use. I got so nervy I used to go to bed every night with a headache. Terrible, man - I cut it out."

He toured for some time with the comedian Max Miller and made occasional radio and television appearances. His career declined to the point that, in the late Fifties, when

In 1959 the agent Lyn Dutton per-

This Is Your Life and the same year made an Armstrong-inspired album called Salute To Satchmo. But once again be was usurped, this time by the Trad Boom, a less sophisticated form of jazz, and by the eminence

of the Beatles. He moved to Lancashire in retirement and finally settled in Gosport, Hampshire. A biography, The Nat Gonella Story, was published in 1985. When be could no longer play the trumpet, he continued to sing regularly at the Gosport Jazz Club: "I'm the sleeping president. I get in for nothing." In 1994 Humphrey Lyttelton, who had long been a friend and had played with Gonella on the This Is Your Life

style. He appeared as the subject of front of the town hall "Nat Gonella Square".

There was a peculiar quirk in his career in January 1997 when a trumpet sequence Gonella bad recorded 65 years earlier was used in a computer-generated hit record called "Your Woman". The title reached the top of the charts. "I never got any money for it," said a bemused Gonella

Steve Voce

Nathaniel Charles Gonella, trumpeter, vocalist and bandleader: born London 7 March 1908, married first 1930 Betty Godecharle (one daughter, marriage dissolved 1936), second 1940 Stella Moya (marriage dissolved), third broadcast, played again at a Gosport Dorothy Collins (died 1996); died ceremony to rename the square in Gosport, Hampshire 6 August 1998.

Viola Keats

AN ACTRESS of vigour and convic. tion. Viola Keats had a fertile career on both stage and screen in the Thirties and continued acting for more than 40 years. Her early films included two directed by Michael Powell, who in his autobil ography wrote somewhat enigmet. ically of his leading ladies in The Night of the Party: "Jane Barter was to play the juvenile lead and the other girl would he played by Viola Keats, a redhead. Both ladies were my type." Keats was indeed a redhead of aquiline sophistication and subtle attractiveness.

Born in Doune, Perthshire, in 1911, Keats was educated at the Convent of Notre Dame de Zion in Worthing and joined the Liverpool Repertory Company in 1930, making her first appearance on stage at the Liverpool Playhouse as Sarah Hurst in Noel Coward's Easy Virtue.

She played a variety of parts with the company until 1932, then studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where she received the Bancroft Gold Medal in 1933. Ship made her first appearance on the London Stage at the Apollo Theatre as Alex Millward in The Distoff Side (1933) and the following year made her Broadway debut in the same role.

Keats entered films in 1933 with five "quota quickies" - B movies quickly made to enable cinemas to fulfil the legally required percentage of home grown product. Three of these films - Double Wedding, Too Many Wives and Enemy of the Police - were made at Warner's Teddington Studios and were among the hundred or more titles whose negatives were alas destroyed when the studio closed and the British Film Institute refused to take more than 10 of its films for preservation.

Keats's best surviving film of this period is Michael Powell's *The Night* of the Party (1934), made for Gaumont-British, in which a man is shot while a hunch of society guests are playing a game of "Murder". As a police commissioner's daughter being blackmailed by a newspaper magnate who has acquired letters she wrote to a married lover and is using them to force his attentions on ber, Keats hreathes conviction into the sometimes stilted dialogue and makes even the denunciation "You swine!" seem natural.

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The following year she was featured in another Powell film, Her Last Affaire, this time playing the victim, as a politician's wife who dies at the country inn where she has planned a rendezvous. Keats also appeared with George Arliss in The Gutr'nor (1935) as a naïve girl saved by a tramp-turned-bank-president from being swindled. After supporting Henry Wilcoxon and Anna Sten in a romantic drama set in Russia, A Woman Alone (1936, called Two Who Dared in the United States), Keats gave up films for over 20 years and concentrated on an active theatre career.

In London she played in Gentle Rain (1936) and in New York Once is Enough (1938). She remained in America during the Forties, appearing in Macbeth (1941, as Lady Macduff) and Murder Without Crime (1943). In 1944 she succeeded Judith Evelyn as Mrs Manningham in Angel Street, touring in the same part for over a year. She was Jean Linden in The London Tree (1948), Elizabeth Boleyn, mother of Anne, in Anne of a Thousand Days (1950) and in 1950 toured Australia with great success as Blanche DuBois in A Streetcar Named Desire, Returning to the London stage, she played in Down Came a Blackbird (1953), which opened at the Q fringe theatre and transferred to the Savoy

When she returned to films her. roles were smaller than those of a decade earlier. Her first was No Time for Tears (1957), a nursing story with Anna Neagle as Matron, and this was followed by She Didn't Say No (1958) and On the Fiddle (1961). In the adaptation of Tennessee Williams' novella The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone (1961), which starred Vivien Leigh as a widowed actress who buys love from a gigolo, Keats was the wife of Leigh's agent. She had more substantial parts in two films about witchcraft featuring Hollywood stars - Witchcraft (1964) with Lon Chaney Jnr. and The Witches (1967) with Joan Fontaine.

Stage roles included Lavinia in The Heiress at the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon (1964) and at the same theatre Leonora in Ladies in Retirement (1965) and Mrs Hardcastle in She Stoops to Conquer (1966). Keats played Lady Frinton in Aren't We All at the Savoy (1967) and in 1972 took over as the Abbess in Ronald Millar's Abelard and Eloise at Wyndham's, then toured in the same role. She joined the National Theatre at the Old Vic for Next of Kin (1974) and played Mrs Culver in W. Somerset Maugham's The Constant Wife in Leatherhead (1975).

She speot her retirement in Brighton,

Tom Vallance

Viola Keats, actress: born Doune, Perthshire 27 March 1911; married " first Harold Peterson (deceased)," second William Kellner (deceased); died 5 June 1998.

Robin Richmond

THE HISTORY of the organ as a musical entertainment, as opposed to accompanying hymns in church, begins in the late 1920s. The honkytonk piano which played a soundtrack of sorts to early silent movies was replaced by the great cinema orchestras who played specially composed theme music to the vast cpics of D.W. Griffith and his Hollywood contemporaries. Then came 1927. Al Joison and the

talkies. Hundreds of cinema musicians were sacked as the Vitaphone Orchestra and its ilk added tinny tracks to feature films. But then came the need to fill in those silent pauses in the programme, newsreels for instance and ice-cream intervals. The cinema organist was born. Quarter hour entertainments were added to the film programmes, thus luring in the customers with an extra added "live" attraction.

Meanwhile the wireless, especially the BBC under Sir John Reith. laced its daily programmes with halfhours of organ interludes, going to town on Sundays with hours of hymns at the church organ. And when the Second World War hroke out, almost all the BBC's advertised programmes were cancelled and on came Sandy MacPherson, the BBC staff organist who just about ran the instrument - and himself - into the ground. Fortunately the return to "business as usual" reintroduced popular programming and put the organ back into place as a low-budget slot-filler.

Robin Richmond was not only one of those regularly heard radio orgarrists, he was one of the first swingtimers, concentrating on the latest dance band hits from America and arranging them for his rather special instrument. This was a Hammond Electronic Organ, and Richmond was in fact the first British organist to import such a thing from the States. His instrument, bought in 1934, actually bore the code number "001".



Robin Richmond was horn in London in 1912, the son of a doctor. Neither of his parents had any musical talent, but the boy became interested in the organ while at Westminster School Students were compelled to attend the daily morning service at Westminster Abbey except. Richmond discovered, those who studied the organ. Thus the delighted schoolboy was able to

sicianship. Advancing to London on Sunday. The job did not last for University to study law, Richmond failed his exams three times before finally giving up. He decided to turn

his hohhy into his full-time joh. Richmond's earliest employment. however, was in religion. He became organist at the Lambeth Mission Hall, which gave him a mixture of secular and serious to accompany. The hall showed silent films during skip religion in favour of further mu- the week and held services all day around that time. In 1936 he joined weekly Picture Parade. He also 1998.

long; the minister sacked him for using drum-style percussion whilst accompanying the hymns.

Richmond now concentrated on popular dance music. His first West End appearance was in the stage revue It's in the Bag (1935) which was so devised that he had two special scenes created around his "organantics", a slang term coined

starring the Two Leslies. This was a Thirties act which conjoined two popular comic singers, Leslie Sarony and Leslie Holmes, a teaming that foreshadowed the Sixties television partnership of the Two Ronnies (Barker and Corbett). This show travelled around the provincial music halls with huge success.

In 1937 Richmond travelled to Holland to play the organ at the Palais de Danse, Scheveningen in support of the famous American hlack dance band led by Benny first radio broadcast in the BBC's popular old time music hall series Palace of Varieties (1938). This would seem somewhat out of place given Richmond's swinging style, but indicates the artist's overall abilities.

The war began, and Richmond volunteered for the Navy. Rejected for reasons of health, he was appointed organist at the Paramount cinema in Tottenham Court Road. By night he accompanied the black singer Adelaide Hall at the Florida Nightclub, but like several similar West End venues, this was bombed He remained organist at the Paramount until March 1946, then crossed over to the Gaumont-British cinema circuit travelling around London and its outskirts playing musical interludes between the

Richmond's main radio work began during the war, and in time be would clock up more broadcasts than any other organist, even, it is said, Sandy MacPherson. He appeared on the Sunday night spectacular Variety Bandbox, with his own swinging sextet on Music While You Work, and as a solo turn on Navy Mixture. Also he played on the Merchant Navy's equivalent show Shipmates Ashore, which was hostessed

the cast of Radio Pie, a touring revue started a series of his own devising, Organ Grinder's Swing. Richmond's film career was less

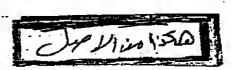
spectacular. He played the soundtrack to a documentary short called Animalantics (1940), supplying suitable tunes to fit the cameraman's pictures. These included "Run Rabbit Run" and "Felix Keeps On Walking". He did a little better four years later in Rainbow Round the Corner, a minor musical starring Billy "Uke" Scott, a second-class George Formby whose signature song was, hopefully not prophetically, "I'm Only Carter Returning home he made his Singing to One". Richmond played an exciting version of the Russian hit "Black Eyes". Five years later came his final film, the much better but still cut-price Murder at the Windmill (1949). This Val Guest mix-up of murder and melody (plus a revealing fan dance) showed Richmond accompanying the Windmill Girls as they sang about "Two Little Dogs". The Fifties brought better times.

Richmond supported Robert Moreton, known as "The Bumper Fun Book" comedian, in the radio series Bumblethorpe (1951), which was scripted by a newcomer to the profession, Spike Milligan. He followed with a starry variety tour with singer Benny Lee in a musical show nicely entitled Mr Words and Mr Music (1954), and several times his recordings for Polygon made the Hit Parade. These included "Ecstasy (1952) and "The Creep" (1953), when be was up against such hig bandsmen as Ken Macintosh, Jack Parnell and the American Stan Kenton.

The longest-lasting tribute to Robin Richmond is the radio series The Organist Entertains, which he created in the post-war Forties and which can still be heard on the air every week to this day.

Denis Gifford

hy Doris Hare, and filled in the Robin Richmond, organist: born gaps between film extracts on the London 21 April 1912; died 27 July



OBITUARIES/7

Paul Flamand

PAUL FLAMAND founded his publishing house, Les Editions du Seuil, in 1935, but it was after the Second World War that it achieved its celebrity as one of the most eminent and innovative of French imprints. He ran it with a combination of tal-

ents rare for an independent publisher: good taste, an adventurous disposition and unusual commercial flair. Among the authors he published were Roland Barthes, Simone Signoret and Jacques Lacan. The great success of Giovanni Guareschi's Don Camillo books allowed Flamand the luxury of publishing less commercial foreign writers, among them Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Italo Calvino and Gabriel Garcia Márquez.

Flamand was also lucky in that for most of his career he had a partner, Jean Bardet, whose interests were purely in administration and finance rather than in the nature of the books published, They worked in perfect harmony without the conflicts that often sour those publishing partnerships where there is competition for editorial pre-eminence or occasional disagreement over policy. Les Editions du Seuil became one of

the most noticed imprints during the Fifties and expanded rapidly during the Sixties, when it became known as an intellectual list with a liberal Catholic flavour, and published such Catholic radicals as Teilhard de Chardin and his followers. Its collection of well-produced glossy paperbacks on religious and spiritual subjects grew out of its journal of the same name, Esprit, and found a ready market.

Seuil also published many of the best new literary talents and successfully competed with the highbrow list of Editions de Minuit and the more popular fiction series put out by Gallimard and Grasset. Flamand countered the literary movement promoted by Minuit that became known as the nouveau roman. with Tel Quel, a literary review that also gave its name to a series of books that combined the literary novel with emerging theories drawn from psychoanalysis, linguisbes, and, in particular structuralism, to form a literature that combined and was dependent on the mental sciences as much as the

traditional concepts of art. The charismatic editor of Tel Quel, who became the leader of the new movement that developed out of it, was Philippe Sollers. He had started as a nouveau romancier with Minuit, hut developed as a post-structuralist writer whose work, hermetic except to a few, used a wide range of non-literary theory and structuralist and psychoanalytical verbiage to create a new kind of fiction that 1964, for whom Lacan wrote Ecrits in



Flamand, left, with his partner in Les Editions du Seuil, Jean Bardet

has not yet been given a name. His wife,

Julia Kristeva, developed a feminist ver-

widely bought. Some were probably lit-

1966) and also the resources to back them and their books.

sion of the same type of writing, but hav-In addition he introduced a series of ing closer links to sociology, more inexpensive, glossy, heavily illustrated overtly political and very much easier books in a small format ("Microcosme"), to read, was more successful, both in Subjects included history, biography mu-France and internationally. sic, painting and subjects of similar in-The Seuil list moved into anthropolterest; booksellers found it profitable to display them prominently on their tables. ogy, semantics, contemporary musical theory and musique concrète, disci-Each series had an established author plines that were just becoming part of in charge, not necessarily with previous university curricula, as many of the auexperience of French publishing. Senil thors had university posts. Such books were innovative in many different fields were much discussed in the press and and more commercially successful than

tie read, but it became obligatory to have intellectual tone of their list. such authors as Jacques Derrida and Paul Flamand was born and brought Lacan on the shelf. up in Aigre, Charente, and educated at Flamand had the flair to employ the the College Saint Paul in Angouleme. He right gurus and specialists as editors of retained a taste for provincial life and in his different series to attract press at-1978 retired to Saint-Chéron, just outside tention (François Wahl, for example, cre-Paris, leaving his firm to successors who ated "Le Champ Freudien" series in

have changed its policy very little.

A conventional and basically private

most of their rivals, in spite of the high

person, Flamand did not seek to make his own name rather than that of his company, and was more bourgeois in his tastes and manner than most of his colleagues of the same generation.

Always approachable and courteous, more of an intellectual than he revealed, he had good judgement in what he published and especially in those he chose to work with and for him. He was active on some committees to further the interests of French publishing, but his reticence did not attract the honours that most of his more flamboyant rivals received. He was a widower for many years before his death.

John Calder

Paul Henri Flomand, publisher: born Aigre, France 25 January 1909; married 1937 Marquerite Olivier (deceased; two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Paris 4 August 1998.

LITERARY NOTES

PATRICIA INGHAM

A radical writer on unmentionable topics

"YOU MEAN mischief," wrote the publisher Macmillan after reading and rejecting
Thomas Hardy's first (unpublished) novel The Poor Man and the Lady. It dealt with a man like Hardy rising from the working class but meeting rejection because of his origins. Subsequent history imitated art. Hardy married, as she said, "a lady" who thought that the less one had to do with "the peasant class" his family belonged to. the better. Macmillan meant that Hardy had the effrontery to satirise his betters and "blacken" a class he knew nothing about he was a subversive.

After this Hardy went underground with his mild subversion. He cannibalised chunks of The Poor Man into his early published novels. These had other shocking elements apart from the attack on middle-class snobbery. They incloded seduction, bigamy and in one case latent lesbianism. By the 1870s such unmentionable topics sold to respectable readers, provided they were well coated with disapproval. Except for the "Sapphic" episode, Hardy was careful to provide this.

Quite quickly he achieved growing success and fame as a writer of what were seen mainly as wonderfully descriptive novels of life in rural Wessex. Some deplored his lapses into pasty sensationalism but his reputation as a serious writer rose. Hardy himself recognised the attraction and selling power of his half-real, halfimaginary country of Wessex. So, in the first collected edition of his novels he carefully worked up the Wessex theme hy altering the texts. He made them topographically more consistent and provided a map but he delighted in

obstructing attempts to find "real" locations. So it was with considerable force that by the 1880s his now truly subversive views surfaced in The Mayor of Casterbridge, Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure. In a society based on patriarchy and paternalism in church, state, and domestic relations. Hardy attacked those very institutions. He did more than defend Tess for succumbing to seduction. He argued that hut for society's disapproval her fall and illegitimate baby would have been "a liberal education". He also made her commit adultery and murder, and then claimed her as "a pure woman", thereby savaging the basis of contemporary



Hardy became truly subversive

ociety. To make matters worse, in Jude the Obscure he next attacked the two props of the establishment: the Church and the older universities. The Church was presented as a worldly and self-serving middle-class enclave. The universities. which grew clergymen "like radishes" to supply the Church, were mechanisms for preserving social privilege and providing obs for the middle-class boys.

Ironically Macmillan had scented an attack on the status quo in Hardy's slight early satire but he could have had no idea how far the critique would go. Nor could be have guessed how well such ideas would sell. Hardy achieved his greatest success when he spoke most radically and, for his time, subversively. The sales increased as the horror of some critics over Jude the Obscure did. As he wrote to a suffragette:

I have long been in favour of woman-suffrage.. because I think the tendency of the woman's vote will be to break up the present pernicious conventions in respect of . . . illegitimacy, the stereotyped household (that it must be the unit stereotyped household (that it must be the unit of society), the father of a woman's child (that it sanybody's business but the woman's own...), sport that so called educated men should be encouraged to harass and kill feeble creatures by mean stratagems), slaughterhouses (that they should be dens of cruelty).

Hardy may have been born in 1840 shortly after Victoria came to the throne, hut he speaks to the 20th century rather than the 19th. .

Patricia Ingham is General Editor of the new Penguin Classics edition of Hardy's novels, based on the original texts

Gazette

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mr Richard Anderson, actor, 72; Professor Jack Baldwin, chemist, 60; Mr Keith Barron, actor, 64; Mr Rory Calhoun, actor, 78; Mr Dennis Canavan MP, 56; Mr Keith Carradine, actor. singer and songwriter, 48; Lord Chapple, former trade union leader, 77; Lord Hayhoe, former MP, 73; Mr Dustin Hoffman, actor, 61; Lt-Gen Sir David House, former "Black Rod", 76; Sir Laurence Hunter, Professor of Applied Economics, Glasgow University, 64; Mr Peter Lapping, Headmaster of Sherborne School, 57; Mr Nigel Mansell, racing driver, 45; Sir Alan Muir Wood, civil engineer, 77; Lord Neill of Bladen QC, Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, 72; Professor Sir Roger Penrose, mathematician, 67; Miss Sylvia Sidney; actress, 88; Miss Connie Stevens, actress and singer, 60; Air Vice Marshal Colin Terry, Chief of Staff at Headquarters Logistics Command, 55; Miss Esther Williams, swimmer and actress, 75; Sir John Wood, former High Court judge, 76.

TOMORROW: Mr David Astor, former Chairman, Council for the Protection of Rural England, 55; Mr Eruest Beaumont, former chairman, Bunzi, 77; Sir Philip Beck, President, John Mowlem & Co. 64; Mr Mervyn Bourdillon, Lord-Lieutenant of Powys, 74; The Right Rev Colin Buchanan, former Bishop of Aston, 64. Professor Elizabeth Cutter. botanist. 69; Mr Tam Dalyell

MP. 66; Baroness Denington. former teacher and journalist, 91; Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse. Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 75; Mr Jonathan Fry, chief executive, Burmah Castrol, 61: Miss Whitney Houston. singer, 35; Sir Alistair Hunter, chairman, British American Chamber of Commerce of Londoo, 62; Mr Leonid Kuchma. president of the Ukraine, 60; Sir Christophor Laidlaw, former chairman, Bridon, 76; Mr Rod Laver, tennis player, 60; Mrs Jackie Lawrence MP. 50; Sir Frank Layfield QC, 77; Mr Robert Maipas, chairman, Cookson Group, 71; Mr James Naughbe, hroadcaster, 47; Mr Graham Pirnie, ambassador to Paraguay, 57; Miss Posy Simmonds, illustrator and cartoonist, 53; Mr John Simpson, foreign affairs editor, BBC, 54; Professor Kevin Thompson, Principal of Dartington College of Arts, 46; Dr George Turner MP, 58; Dr. David VanderLinde, Vice-Chancellor, Bath University. 56; Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman, J. Rothschild Assurance, 67; Lord Young of Dartington, Director, Institute of Community Studies, 83.

ANNIVERSARIES

TODAY: Births: Sir Godfrey Kneller (Gottfried Kniller), painter, 1646; Hermann Anton Gelinek (Cervetti), monk, violinist and composer, 1709; George Cattermole, water-colour painter, 1800; Wilhelm Friedrich Wieprecht, inventor of the bass-tuba. 1802: F. Anstey (Thomas Anstey Guthrie), writer, 1856;

William Bateson, hiologist, 1861: Frank Richards (Charles Harold St John Hamilton), writer and creator of "Billy Bunter", 1876; Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. novelist, 1896; Ernest Orlando Lawrence, physicist and inventor of the cyclotron, 1901; Paul Adrien Maurice Dirac, physicist, 1902. Deaths: Thomas is Kempis

(Thomas Hammerken von Kempen), monk and writer. 1471; Girolamo Fracastoro. astronomer, poet and physician, 1553; George Canning, statesman, 1827; Sir William James Erasmus Wilson, dermatologist, who, at his own expense, brought "Cleopatra's Needle" to London, 1884; Jakob Christopher Burckhardt, art historian, 1897; Eugène-Louis Bondin, painter, 1898; James-Joseph Jacques Tissot, painter and illustrator, 1902; Frank Winfield Woolworth, chain-store founder, 1919; Anton Ivanovich Denikin, anti-Bolshevik general, 1947; Shirley Jackson, writer, 1965; Jaromir Weinberger, composer, 1967; James Gould Cozzens, novelist, 1978; Nicholas John Turney Montsarrat, novelist, 1979; Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, 1996.

Oo this day: Queen Eliza-beth I reviewed her troops at Tilbury, 1588; the first mail coach ran in Britain - from London to Bristol, 1784; Dr Michel Paccard and Jacques Balmat reached the summit of Mont Blanc, 1786; the Poor Law Act was passed in England, 1834; the Red Cross

League, founded by Jean-Henri Dunant, was granted immunity in time of war at the Geneva Convention, 1864; the British Academy was granted a Royal Charter, 1902; the first British troops arrived in France, 1914; the Treaty of Rawalpindi was signed, 1919; the US dirigible Akron was launched, 1931; the Battle of Britain began, 1940; the Great Train Robbery occurred when £2.5m was stolen from a train at Cheddington, Bucking-hamshire, 1963; President On this day: the Siege of Richard Nixon resigned, the first US president to do so. Limerick started, 1690; revo-1974: the London production of the musical 42nd Street was first presented, 1984: John McCarthy, the journal-

1986, was freed, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Altman, Saints Cyriacus. Largus and Smaragdus, St Dominic The Fourteen Holy Helpers and St Hormisdas the Martyr.

ist held hostage by Islamic

Jihad in the Lebanon since

TOMORROW: Births: Izaak Walton, author of The Compleat Angler, 1593; John Dryden, poet, 1631; Thomas Telford, civil engineer, 1757; Leonid Nikolayevich Andreyev, novelist and playwright, 1871; Léonide Fedorovich Massine, dancer and choreographer, 1896; Jean Piaget, child psychologist, 1896; Robert Aldrich, film director, 1918; Philip Arthur Larkin, poet, 1922.

Deaths: Trajan, Roman emperor, 117; Maarten Harpertszoon Tromp, admiral, 1653; Captain Frederick

Marryat, novelist, 1848; Dr John Hill Burton, historian and jurist, 1881; Ruggiero Leoncavallo, composer, 1919: Professor Graham Wallas, economist, 1932; Sir John Bernard Partridge, artist and cartoonist, 1945; Nikolai Miaskovsky, composer, 1950; John Jeffrey Farnol, novelist, 1952; Herman Hesse, poet and novelist, 1962; Joe Orton (John Kingsley Orton), play-wright, 1967; Dmitri Dmitryevich Shostakovich, composer.

lutionaries established the Commune in Paris, 1792; the border between Canada and the United States was established, 1842; the first Atlanbic cable was completed by Cyrus Field, 1858; the Elementary Education Act was passed, 1870; the Married Women's Property Act was passed, 1870; the coronabon of Edward VII took place in Westminster Abbey, 1902; following an earthquake in the area of Constantinople (Istanbul), 6,000 people were killed and 40,000 rendered homeless, 1912; an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, 1945; Cyprus was attacked by Turkish aircraft. 1964; Singapore became independent, 1965; the London production of the musical Jesus Christ Superstar was first presented, 1972; Gerald Ford became 38th US president, 1974.

Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Emygius, Saints Nathy and Felim; St Oswald of Northumbria and St Romanus.

Colonial: old school chums reunited for a prayerful chinwag about Keeping the Faith in all climates and conditions. By contrast, photographs of Lambeth 98 tell a very different

story. Poly-ethnic, racially diverse, old and young, male and female, the assembled bishops give us the clearest possible statement that the Anglican conference has not been about the continuation of a quaint old English tradition, nor about bringing Anglican leaders back home from far-flung outposts of a former Empire. It has been about a change to international partnership and power-sharing ma vibrant and youthful church. In case anyone is in any

doubt leadership in the Angli-

on Western agenda AS THE marquees come down can Communion of '98 is well He left as the arch-racist, havand truly indigenised. The time

Church turns its back

and the used name-tags pile up, the administrators of Lamhas long gone since Third World beth 98 can feel relief that their hishops were token represenmammoth feat is over. Over tatives. Theirs has been the the last three weeks they have voice that has prevailed on serviced around 2,000 people: most of the agenda, whether in discussions on international primates, bishops, spouses, speakers, consultants, report debt or human sexuality. And writers, technicians, church that voice has been consistent, drawing the Church, day after organisations, stewards, visitors, journalists, and photogday into a re-embracing of bibhcal orthodoxy in areas both raphers. The rest of the country theological and moral. has looked on, their interest occasionally buillated through Backing the Archbishop of reports and images, benign or Canterbury's call to scriptural bizarre. We've had boatfuls of faithfulness, Third World bishbishops floating down the Thames, actors with staves depicted in moving dramabic **FAITH** narrative, mouth-to-mouth con-& frontation between gay rights activists and African episco-**REASON**

pates, and the Archbishop

of Canterbury solitary and

pensive on a park bench.

ELAINE STORKEY But as hundreds of visitors move off towards airport depar-The people of the ture lounges an important question is, what has the Lambeth Third World are a Conference actually been about? majority who are The answer is to be found more in the people than in the used to being agenda. Somewhere in Lambeth out-manoeuvred at Palace hangs a picture of a prewar Lambeth Conference: very international English, very establishment, gatherings. But it very white. Benevolent faces of gracious ecclesiastical dignidid not happen at taries smile out at us, no doubt this year's Lambeth Oxbridge-educated with double Conference Firsts in Latin and Divinity. The old photograph conveys a powerful visual impression of the

Church of England, Home and ops have been forthright in their rejection of anything that looked like flabby First World self-indulgence. The pleas of the gay and lesbian Christian movement fell not so much on deaf ears as on ears more tuned into poverty and persecution than preferential sexual life-styles. The overwhelming vote for the Church's tradibional sexual morality and against the "mar-Communion has changed This riage" or ordination of practising homosexuals illustrated the Third World empowered. Consequently, headline-

seekers of the Western liberal variety have been persistently wrong-footed, and made to look not only hopelessly out of step, but tired and out of date. The much-publicised Bishop Spong arrived as the self-acclaimed champion of the disenfranchised.

ing made an extraordinary attack on the faith of the African bishops as being "one step

away from witchcraft". This change of voice is not just about the demise of white supremacy in the Anglican communion. It is about earning the moral right to speak. The Third World bishops represent provinces where the growth of the Church has been phenomenal, but where spiritual affluence has also been accompanied by material poverty. They have done their homework. They know how much the West is to blame, and their mastery of the facts

on international debt showed. What is more, the growth of their churches has not been without pain. All too often it has been at the cost of great suffering, for hostile regimes do not treat indigenous Christian leaders with the same deference they once offered to colonial representatives. Bishops told of their families being ambushed or tortured, their people going without food, their children blown up by landmines. The Bishop of Pakistan spelt out the dangers of Christian belief in an Islamic setting. for in Pakistan sectarian killings have reached new heights. When faithfulness to Christ costs everything you have, your voice is a legitimate one.

But there has been another important ingredient in the Lambeth Conference, women. The first women bishops - 11 of them-played a crucial part. Yet a more subtle, and probably more significant presence has been the spouses programme. The six bishops' husbands cheerfully joined ranks with the 600 hishops' wives and affected a shift in old attitudes.

The spouses' village itself was a brainwave. It became a place where women told their stories to each other, where lives were shared and experiences swapped. As the hishops debated, their spouses networked. Only time will tell which of these will have the greater long-term effect on the future of the Anglican Communion.

Elaine Storkey is the Director of the Institute of Contemporary Christianity

LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Drew, "Carpets (ii): Holbein, The Ambassadors", 12pm. Tate Gallery, Laurence Bradbury, "The Emotive Features of Portraiture", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Simone Mathews. "20th-century Interiors",

British Museum: Lorna Oakes, "The Royal Graves of Ur", 11,30am; Lorna Oakes, The Sumerian Temple of Ubaid", 1.30pm.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards,

TOMORROW: The House-

hold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh

Announcements for Gazette Announcements for Gazette
BIRTES, MARRIAGES &
DEATHS (Births, Adoptions,
Marriages, Deaths, Memorial
services, Wedding anniversaries,
In memoriam) are charged at
E8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

Marriages made in heaven?



bishops' wives relax at Kent University, above, while Marion MacCall, below wife of the Bishop of Willochra, takes to the air

John Voos/Kent News & Pictures

They want more sex and they aren't role models. Meet the bishops' spouses. By Clare Garner

Howatch, "She provides sex on the

ing occupation." This sketch was met

Hough, wife of the Bishop of Papua

her postcards home. "This is actu-

ally our honeymoon," she said.

"We've been married 12 years but

this is the only time we've ever been

In many ways it has been a holi-

on our own for any length of time."

day for the hishops' spouses. There

have been outings galore: day trips

to the beach (where some of the

women paddled in the sea for the

first times, boats down the Thames

and historical tours for those with a

One of the more unusual requests

for workshops came from Marion

MacCall, wife of the Bishop of

Willochra in South Australia. She

speut a day doing light aircraft

maintenance at Kent's Headcorn

Aerodrome. Mrs MacCall's story

was enough to raise the spirits of any

thirst for Ye Olde England.

ley mend aeroplanes. hey need sex more than once a week and five are men. Welcome to the bishops' spouses. The stereotype of a frumpy: dependable cream e. complete with hun, brooch and bonnet, whose moment of glory is carting the tape at the church fete. has been blown apart by this year's spouses' conference. Their programme has had a distinctly feminist flavour. The Archbisbop of Canterbury

may like to think of them as "the natarai priests of the home" around whom the tamily "swivels", as he told them, but most have a very different perception of themselves. Dr Carey did concede that they could also make a ear evangelists, but neither did that really account for the fact that some have full-time careers of their own, often earning more than mempurple partners. Thankfully, Dr hared across Kent University cam-'s wife. Elleen, who put tojether the inspired parallel programma, did not feel restricted to di mastic science.

questionnaires to the 600 spouses or "spices", as they have been Jainted - who were coming to the conterence. Their replies made clear that she was dealing with women who wanted to stand on their own inc feet. Clearly, the only pinny alaby of these women would constact wearing would be the one designed by the organisation Wanten and the Church. The cusmassed pink aprons bear the slogan "A coman's place is in the house or bisnops" The line has been so persuar it has sold out.

halord, the wives turned out to be a more liberal-minded bunch than mee mashands. There was a huge manager of people wanting roles in in viid of conference play based on heroines" - a priest's wife called Ros-The Happy Prince - a short story



ence cause for concern, "We all latch on to one thing and forget that he was a complex man who wrote deeply," said Jo Cundy, married to the Bishop of Peterborough, as she ate for renearsa Of course, no spouses' pro-

gramme (as it was renamed this ear so as not to exclude the five hus-Three years ago, she sent out bands present) would be complete without its trademark "mend a mitre" and "make a kneeler" workshop, hut needlework was not, in the main, the order of the day. The spouses were far more eager to find out what to do "if the role doesn't fit".

"The veteran juggler" workshop looked at the "challenges and frustrations that a full-time career hrings to the role of being a hishop's spouse"; and "Women in the structures: our light is no longer under a bushel" speaks for itself. It was, they said, "empowering". A talk hy Susan Howatch, cherished author of the "the Starbridge sextet", the ecclesiastical bonkbuster series, was a sell-out. Her description of the inner thoughts of one of her "harassed alind - seemed to strike a chord.

downbeat bishop's wife. Six years ago she woke up to the fact that she rarely saw her husband. With a diocese stretching over an area six times the size of England, be was driving 40,000 miles a year. So what did Mrs MacCall do? She set up a fund entitled Wings Over Willochra, overcame a lifelong fear of flying and set about acquiring her pllot's licence. When she's lost, she likes to sing

nymns. "On one occasion." she told the spouses, "after singing my repertoire several times, including 'Abide With Me' and 'Nearer My God To Thee', a voice came over the radio: 'Don't you know any other hymns?' I'd left my microphone on.' But whatever happens, her hus-

band must watch out. In the air, it is wife who has the controls. "The weekends. He's too tired for it in the only domestics we have are when we are in the air," said Mrs MacCall. "We week. Being wonderful is a very tirquite often fly across a large lake. with roars of sex-starved approval. One time we were going away for four days. I looked back and rea my bag was not there. My husband grateful for small mercies - such as the Lambeth Conference. Bennita had forgotten to put it in. I nearly pressed the ejector hutton and New Guinea, looked up from writing dropped him in the drink."

> A theme running throughout the conference was summed up in the title of one of the presentations by Isobel Hardy, wife of Bob Hardy, the Bishop of Lincoln: "The role and how to survive it." As a GP, she has resisted the role of hishop's wife. "The less adequate the person, the more they identify with the role," she told the spouses. "They feel exposed and lost when they cannot follow one of thee social automatic behaviour patterns. Their lives become more and more limited by "playing the role". like the clergy who are never ever seen without a dog collar; one wonders if they wear it in hed."

> Nevertheless, she had every sympathy with her fellow "spices". "Our position as spouse often makes us feel frustrated, ignored, criticised

and powerless," she said, drawing on a vocabulary from cognitive psychology. She addressed the "psychological baggage" each of them brings to the role. "We may resent the popularity of the bishop and be unable to reflect and rejoice in it. We may envy him. If we feel our work is a vocation and we have to give it up because of the 'role', it is almost inevitable that we will have to struggle with resentment.

"As a spouse one must often be seen and not heard. One of the most difficult parts of being a bishop's wife is to have ideas and yet not be able to disclose them to anyone other than your husband for fear of rocking the boat."

Among the five male spices who arrived on the scene this year, Dr Philip Roskam, husband of Catherine Roskam, the Suffragan Bishop of New York, won the prize for being the keenest. Sauntering around s with his red tote ba for bishops, red for spouses), be was always happy to stop for a chat. But then, as it turned out, chatting is his business. As a psychotherapist with a practice on Park Avenue, he offers Freud while his wife offers God.

Since Bishop Roskam took office, Dr Roskam's life has inevitably changed - and probably in precisely the way most wives dread. "As a result of being a hishop's spouse I learned to cook," he said. "I went on a course and discovered I had a talent for i. Rack of lamb is my best dish - and soft shell crab with deepfried parsley. When I'm stuck, I look things up in The Joy of Cooking."

The only activity that Dr Roskam couldn't find time for during the three-week conference was the daily keep-fit classes. Perhaps he didn't want to cramp the women's style. In which case, there's always next time. In 2008 you may not be able to

PARK LIFE

Helpless as the boy catches the angling bait

AT THE EDGE of a common, 10minutes' walk from my home. where the grass meets the main road into central London, there is a small pond with a willow tree on an island in the middle. Around this pond, just a few feet away from the constant stream of thundering lorries, buses and cars, a small group of men huddle with fishing rods.

They are not always the same men, but they are always there, day and night, summer and winter, with their dark green tents and boxes of tackle and bait. Occasionally they may catch something which they must, by regulation, put back. As a result the fish here are extremely difficult to catch because they have been through the painful experience so often. The fishermen sometimes talk of a monster pike they are after "this big", they say extending both arms out wide. But they must be sending themselves up: a fish that size would have to execute three-point turns to circumnavigate a small pond.

I have never seen anything remotely glamourous or, for that matter, tranquil in this urban angling experience, hut to my son Darcy - whose tastes run to flash cars, flash football teams and glitzy pop groups - fishing is the very acme of cool.

His interest started a couple of years ago, at the age of five. when he noticed the fishermen in our local park and struck up conversations with them. At first we would call him back, assuming the fishermen demanded total silence and concentration. But we were wrong; unlike many people involved in esoteric activities. anglers are always keen to attract young recruits.

I also discovered that it is mpossible to look frightening to a little boy (or his parents) when you have a fishing rod in your hands and Darcy spent happy half hours in deep conversation with, among others, a group of shaven-headed youths with tattoos and multiple earpiercings and a great bear of a man with dreadlocks reaching below his waist. They were happy to explain, with inexhaustible patience, to a understand, the technicalities of their pastime. I gave Darcy a rod for Christmas, and on Boxing Day we duly made for the pond where we tried to copy the other anglers. With predictably hopeless results: disappearing bait, lost hooks, tangled line, and, pretty soon, broken reels. Then, joy of joys, Darcy was taken on an outing by a friend's dad to a fishing lake 20 miles away. "Danny's dad is a real expert," Darcy told me reproachfully several times

To my barely suppressed pleasure, this expertise counted for nothing on the day. It was too cold and the fish just were not interested. But here I made another discovery about fishing. It is not actually catching the fish that is so important, it is the

in the lead-up to the trip.



BRUCE **MILLAR**

I have never seen anything glamorous in this urban angling experience but to my son it is the acme of cool

husiness of preparing bait and tackle, and then endlessly adjusting them if nothing bites. Which seems to me to he the equivalent of getting a horse in from the paddock, grooming it, fitting the bridle bit, and saddle and then taking the whole lot off again without riding the beast.

Nevertheless, Darcy regaled us again and again with tales of hreaking the ice at the edge of the lake, of using a catapult to shoot pieces of bait across the lake - "hut we nearly hit a van" and of Danny's dad - who'a (groan) "a real expert" - heating soup on a camping gas stove. The boy was clearly on his way to becoming a first-class fishing Last summer we found

ourselves in Norway, where we learned a little more about fishing. Darcy's holiday treat was an evening fishing tip on a boat out in the North Sea. Also on board was a group with stateof the art tackle and costumes to match. Never mind. I thought. Darcy will enjoy the whole husiness even if he catches nothing and these experts show us how it is done. I need not have worried. The flashiest tackle counted for nothing here where a bent safety pin on a length of string would have been sufficient. Within moments, we were reeling in strings of silver mackerel, sometimes two to a hook, and cod and ling and other fish whose names we did not this easy, I thought, I had been caught, hook, line and sinker.

This summer we are off to Turkey, and the rest of the family is dreaming of hot sun, exotic food and the warm Mediterranean sea. Not Darcy, who is marching round the house chanting "balik tutmak seviyorum", which, he says, is Turkish for "I like fishing". He has invested his life savings in a new rod, and can hardly sleep for thinking about it. Last night, as he lay awake in bed, he told my wife: "Muuuum, when I'm higger, on my wedding anniversary I'll take my boat out on the sea at sunset and catch a fish for my wife

"How romantic of you," she cooed. He backtracked: "No, probably I'll just go fishing with



Brian Lewis: 'Thousands of history projects'

The history of life as we know it

Brian Lewis set up the Yorkshire Art Circus to help locals tell their story. By Chris Arnot

FROM WOODEN floor to corniced ceiling, one high wall of Brian Lewis's front room in Pontefract is covered with books. The other walls are covered with pictures so that hardly a square inch of wallpaper is visible. He has, at various times, been a painter and a poet as well as a teacher and an arts administrator.

But Lewis now spends much of his time in bomes where full bookcases are as rare as wine racks, Indeed, he recently went into a back-to-back house in Leeds and found one slim volume on the mantelpiece, propped up between two candlesticks. He recognised it immediately as one of his own. Not his own words, but his edited collections of the memories, wry observations and random thoughts of the people who live in this street and the ones around it.

"There are thousands of oral history projects," he says. "It's a cottage industry to give PhDs to academics. But nobody transcribes the tapes. If you give people a book, they've got something to keep and be proud of. You've got to believe that people have something to say, and

they bloody well do. Every day I'm surprised by the things they come

In Castleford he aaked an interviewee about local-boy-made-good Henry Moore. "He came to unveil one of his works once," the man told him, "and a dog came out of the crowd and cocked his leg up it."

asked Lewis. "He laughed." In Boreham Wood a re-housed Cockney told him: "If you think I'm sharp, you should have seen my granddad. He once sold a three-

legged dog to a bloke in a pub on the

"What did Henry Moore do?"

basis that it was a rare species." One of his favourite stories is recorded in Crossed Lines, named after the washing lines which crisscross the street between the backto-back houses of Burley Lodge in Leeds. A woman recounts how a neighbour put out a hanging basket

and encouraged her to do the same. "I said that the flowers wouldn't last in our streets, that the kids would rip them out like they did the plants they put in concrete bowls down Burley Lodge Road. Those lasted less

her I said that I would give it a go. She and her next-door neighbour then put pots out round the door and window boxes. A new woman who had moved in brought a planted tray from her old house. Pots of plants appeared on the window sills of another house. She had a deal: 'Let me use your sill and I'll water.' The top end

of the street is a picture." Lewis has produced his oral history books in the former miners' terraces of Castleford and on former council estates in Hull and Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire. Housing Associations and Housing Action Trusts employ him to tease out and transcribe tenants' stories in an effort to boost community spirit.

Each tenant receives a free copy produced to the standard of a paperback they could buy in WH Smith's. "Better that they can read about themselves and their neighbours than receive some brochure with no substance, produced by a PR company in London," says Lewis.

He has produced four of these books in housing renewal areas of Leeds where back-to-back houses at Grimethorpe and began taking just afford a Leica," muses Lewis.

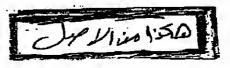
than 24 hours but out of respect for were huilt as late as the Thirties and consequently qualify for restoration rather than demolition. "One old lass told me they were ideal for people to shove a lot of leaflets through doors in a sbort space of time," he says. "Every so often she'd get one auggesting she extended her home with a conservatory."

He rocks with laughter at the absurdity, his great white beard shovelling up and down. At 61, he is still a hundle of enthusiastic energy. Ideas and anecdotes tumble out, with just a trace of an accent from his native Birmingham. He was born in inner-city Ladywood and worked in a foundry and a brewery before training to teach. After National Service, he married and moved to his heloved West Yorkshire where, in 1980, he set up the Yorkshire Art Circus under the slogan: "Everyone has a story to tell. We find ways of helping them tell it."

He built up a team of writers capable of working at speed. On the Saturday after Michael Heseltine announced wholesale pit closures in 1992, they moved into the school half down the thoughts of local residents. "People talk freely when they're angry," he says. "We had 34,000 words by 4pm when we went back to atart proof-reading. By 10.45 that night we were printing and by one o'clock the first copies were in the hands of union leaders to take on the march to London,"

Lewis it was who launched the professional career of the "miner" artist Harry Malkin, formerly of Fryston Colliery, near Castleford. "The first exhibition I got him was between the till and the toilets at an Italian restaurant in Pontefract. The next was at the Royal Festival Hall."

Showing alongside Malkin's powerful charcoal sketches of life underground were stunning photographs by a former Fryston colliery blacksmith and barber, Jack Hulme, who was in his eightles when Lewis discovered his work. "I'm world famous round here," Hulme told him and proceeded to show him a Leica camera which had cost him £92 in 1943. "I once interviewed the great Bert Hardy, a bigtime photographer, and he could only



ag bait

MILLAR

CHOWN







Typhoo hopes its new up-beat advertising campaign, bottom right, will reverse the decline in tea-drinking and reach the parts of the younger generation that traditional campaigns have failed to reach

love affair with its once favourite hrew has soured, research published this week shows. Busier lifestyles, the inexorable rise of the soft drink and our growing pasimport - the coffee bar - are all to accompaniment by Seventies hlame. Ob, and the fact that a funksters Kool and the Gang. The humble cuppa is, not to put too fine

able digestives. Cosy kitchens. Associations with clubbing, dining out and the work hard, play hard ethos of today's bright young things seem tenuous, to say the least. UK tea sales have fallen by 3.5 per cent in the past five years, research from market analysis Euromonitor reveals. True, not a major collapse but just as worrying: a gradual demise.
"The market has been static, if not

in decline, for the past few years," admits Chris Thomas, marketing director of Premier Brands which owns Typhoo.

"Older people are fairly well-established in their habits. When it comes to tea they've drunk the

ritannia is too cool to 50 years. Young consumers are saydrink tea. The nation's ing tea is old hat. We need to perk

Which is why Typhoo's new advertising campaign is designed to get us dancing to our kettles. Feelgood shots of everyday people doing everyday things in unusual ways are sion for America's latest cultural neatly choreographed to a musical growing number of us think the commercial, aimed at young housewives, marks an attempt to make tea more relevant to our time. It's a far

Meanwhile, the Tea Council last month unveiled a generic logo for tea. The sun and cup motif is described by its creator, designer Ken Windsor, as: "A light-hearted bon vivant device to re-position tea in the hearts and minds of the consumer as a healthy, hearty drink."

Windsor, creative director of design company Siegel & Gale, explains that worldwide, interest in tea is flagging. The logo, likely to be introduced in the UK next year, marks an attempt to position tea as a healthy drink perfectly in tune with Nineties' lifestyles.

He's got a point. Ever since it was first invented by the Chinese and same hrand day in day out for 30, 40, made its European debut in the mid-

One Anna, 7th Duchess of Bedford, is widely credited with the invention of afternoon tea when she grew tired of a certain sinking feeling that afflicted her each afternoon at around 4pm in the long, dull space between

To begin with, tea was an indul-

'Older people are well established in their habits. Young consumers are saying tea is old hat'

gence restricted to monarchs and wealthy aristocrats because of cost. Soon, tea drinking - and the tea-making paraphernalia that went with it - became a statement for social climbers. Eventually, tea went mainstream, becoming a mainstay of British working life.

Even so, it was seen by some as subversive. Infuriated by the fact

16th century, tea has been revered that the average labourer spent for its health-enhancing qualities. around one third of his earnings on tea, William Cobbett wrote in 1822: "Tea drinking has done a great deal in bringing this nation into the state of misery in which it now is." He went on to warn against the brew's side effects: "A softness, an effeminacy, a seeking for the fire side, a lurking in bed and, in short, all the characteristics of idleness." Which,

of course, was part of its appeal. Secure in the knowledge tea had become the national drink and an in-England and the English way of life, tea companies grew complacent. True, they began to invest in "tea

technology". But despite developing square and then round tea hags, tea granules, decaffeinated tea, pyramid and draw string bags little thought was paid to attracting new generations of tea drinkers. We'd continue to drink tea because ... we always had.

Wrong. Suddenly, fizzy drinks were all the rave. Brands like Tango, Red Bull and latest newcomer Tizer Ice have become lifestyle statements. And younger consumers

swallowed it all, glass by glass. "It's image-led - everyone is intyd Lewis, executive director of the Tea Council. "To position tea as the healthy lifestyle drink is unchallengable." But then came London's booming coffee bar scene which, with its new vocabulary - "latte", "mocha", "double tall skinny", is now leading the nation towards more sophisticated bot drinking habits.

'Tea is okay at home. But think about going out to a café for a cup of tea and you think greasy spoon'

Sophie Rutter, a store assistant and regular at the Seattle Coffee Company on Carnaby Street is typical. "Tea's okay at home, but think about going out to a café for a cup of tea and you think greasy spoon, fried eggs and cigarette smoke," she says. Or, at the opposite extreme, the refined confines of The Ritz? "Tve never been. But if I did

terested in image now," laments III- I bet it would be full of Japanese her friend, Rohert Johnson, a trainee architect: "I love a nice about it. If I need picking up I'd rather drink Red Bull - preferably with a shot of vodka:"

Tea is still "a big thing" at breakfast hut a major loser when it comes to evening meals, says Mac Cato, chairman of brand experts Cato Consulting which has recently investigated the potential to revive the tea room. "The habits and rituals associated with tea have bred a strong drinks in a can could become as big sense of continuity, hut never ex- as impulse ice creams. citement," he says.

sociate director of youth marketing consultancy Informer. "For a start, they're eager to turn against the consumer choices made by their parents," he says - which explains recent talk of declining sales of hranded jeans and trainers. "Tea isn't cool. It's something you have at home, not when you're out and about."

In an attempt to grab us on the move, Brooke Bond is launching ready-to-drink PG Tips in a can - not in response to lagging consumer de-

mand but as an attempt to "keep up tourists, not people like me." Adds with consumer lifestyles", a spokeswoman for the company insists. In case you were wondering, the preprepared drinks are bought from a heated vending machine at 55-57C. It may sound familiar but, the company adds, tea in a can comes fresh and without the cardboard taste of familiar to frequenters of the ubiqintous Max Pack machine.

Could this remedy the younger generation's disinterest in tea? Brooke Bond certainly hopes so. In fact it predicts the UK market for ho

Convenience rather than image Young people's lifestyles are is the key obstacle to overcome, the against it, adds Ian Pierpoint, asa point. After all, do we really want our cuppa to be exciting?

Tea may be many things - a pick me up, a soother, a comforter and (given half a chance) a cooler on a hot summer's day - hut it's rarely trendy and never the cause of excitemeot. Tea companies have been warned. Should any feel compelled to try too hard the results would surely be unnerving - a bit like seeing your dad bopping on the dance floor, dressed in Nike trainers and a pair of Levi's.

Why this village loves its festival

For over 20 years Cropredy has embraced its rockers? By Matthew Brace

DAVID PEGG has worn well. More than 30 years of rock'n'roll have etched few lines on his face and his Brummie wit is as sharp as when he formed the seminal folk rock band Fairport Convention in 1967.

His punishing schedule puts the Rolling Stones to shame. Fairport are arguably the hardest working band in the business and in the past 12 months toured America, Germany and Italy and completed a 34date British run.

But he is always back home in north Oxfordshire, where he lives with his wife Christine and records at his studio in a converted chapel, for one hectic and invariably drunken August weekend. This is when Pairport and a host of guest musicians gather to play their annual, two-day, outdoor festival in a field on the outskirts of the village of Cropredy three miles from Banbury.

Cropredy (pronounced Cropeddie) is unlike any other music festival. Glastonhury in Somerset is known worldwide for psychedelic bedonism and "enthusiastic" policing. The Phoenix, near Stratfordupon twon, has a reputation for anti-social behaviour Nearly 100 people are arrested annually for

thefts, drugs offences and knife-point robberies, although things have quietened down a little since 1993 when a mini-riot ensued and a security guard was stabbed. This year's event has been cancelled owing to poor ticket sales, much to the relief of local residents who fear the annual invasion and lock themselves and their pets indoors with plenty of aspirin and good books to see them through the long, noisy nights. Cropredy could never compete

with the festival bad boys. To the band's knowledge only one complaint has been received from a local resident in the event's 22-year history. Apart from a few drunken farmhands swaying on cider and the odd camper loudly cursing a mooing cow in the early hours, it is the most laid-hack of festivals. The worst crime was the theft of a rose bush from an elderly villager's garden. The band bought her three re-

piacements. The Thames Valley drug squad gave up attending in 1985, calculating that it simply wasn't worth shelling ont for gum boots and anorate to nick a few ageing Hell's Angels for smoking dope. The uniformed police presence is tiny too hy field that weekend.



and by all accounts the officers practically volunteer for duty to get a chance to jig around their helmets at the front of the stage.

But then Fairport have always had a good relationship with the police. They lived in a commune in 1969 with their girlfriends and an ever growing number of unwashed roadies. One afternoon as they relaxed in the back garden with various mind-expanding substances the local bobbies popped their heads over the wall. The band's panic turned to amazement when they realised the police had not come to raid them but to ask if they wouldn't mind playing at the police dance in a near-

It was Fairport's first outdoor gig, it cost six shillings to get in and the constabulary gave them a washing machine as payment. "The police know Cropredy is a safe festival. It's

the whole atmosphere here, the vibe if you like, that makes it so special," says Pegg over venison sausages and a pint of Greene King in the Deddington Arms down the road from his rural base. "Violence and bad behaviour are

just not tolerated here, it's not on, so nobody does it, You are out of place being aggressive. It has always been like that from the early days. Wonderful really, and unique as far as I know. Where else at festivals these days can you leave your tent

open and not get your stereo

The festival began in the parched summer of 1976 when Fairport organised a sing-along to raise money for a new village hall, attended by a small crowd. Last year, the band's 30th anniversary and the 21st festival, 23,000 fans turned up, quaffed series of talented folk and rock acts, ending with Fairport playing a fourhour finale under a harvest moon.

"Not bad for a hunch of old farts," says Pegg, and not bad for a group who admit that they have always been one of the least marketable in

the music business. Cropredy is a home-grown festi-

val. The Peggs plan it, the local Scout troop double as litter-pickers and traffic attendants, and the Ladies Circle provide breakfasts in the

farmyard adjacent to the site. There

is even a festival service at the vil-

lage church which is always well attended by Christian bikers. There is one field away from the 61,000 pints of beer and watched a hubbub for those with children which will be fuller than usual this year as the children quota (restricted for safety reasons) is being increased. "I think most of the kids who come were probably conceived

here," Pegg jokes. It is the only festival where revellers stand a good chance of humping into monsters of rock behind the of August.

There's nowt as strange as folk-rock... and more than 20,000 fans are expected at Cropredie's 22nd festival next weekend Oxford Mail

beer stalls and hiriyani tents. One Cropredy veteran, Mark Bennett, remembers a mystical moment when Led Zeppelin's legendary singer Rohert Plant came wandering through the guy ropes.
"I was walking around the stalls

one afternoon when I met him walking his dogs, an Irish wolfhound and a whippet," he said. "At first I didn't click who it was. I thought it was just some long-haired hippie. We stopped and had a good chat. Cropredy is the only place where you could do that."

But how long can it go on? Pegg turned 50 in November and the rest of the band are not far behind. "At the rate we are going it's impossible to even slow down let alone stop," affirms Pegg.

The only time the band feel old is when fans queue at the guest tent for autographs weighed down with piles of Fairport album covers and they realise just how long they have been around.

The village will not let them stop. The two pubs, craft centre and grocery store next to the canal all rely on it as their biggest money-spinner and for many locals it is the highlight of the year - a chance to let their hair down before the harvest drags them back out into the fields and the nights begin to draw in.

Perhaps Cropredy's greatest asset is that it is run by musicians not businessmen. Certainly Fairport do well out of it hut money also goes to village causes and villagers do not feel they are being thrown a few pennies for their inconvenience while the lords of the manor run off with the silver.

■ This year's Cropredy Festival is on Friday and Saturday 14 and 15



A major retrospective of the shocking, uncompromising work of the late Alan Clarke shows just why the reputation of this courageous director continues to grow. By Geoffrey Macnab

King of the hooligan element

A SULLEN-LOOKING teenage girl turns down a suburban street and keeps on walking. She walks and walks and walks. Eventually, she reaches a friend's house. We see her standing in the kitchen beside him. They look as if they are about to do the washing up. In fact, they are get-ting ready to shoot up. As soon as the syringe is ready in a matter-of-fact way, they take off their belts and tighten them around their arms. The fix over the groggy teenager walks back down the street. The processwalk, fix, walk - is repeated again and again. This, in a mutshell, is Christine, Alan Clarke's 50-minute TV drama from 1986 about drug addiction. One watches it with mounting fascination. When is something going to happen? The answer is never.

Think of Clarke and the images which probably spring to mind are Ray Winstone slugging Phil Daniels with a sock full of billiard balls in Scum (1977), Gary Oldman orchestrating casual football violence in The Firm (1989), or Tim Roth as a skinhead swaggering down the middle of the road, sneering at the passing traf-fic in Mode In Britain (1983). On the face of it, Clarke, who died in 1990, was the most macho and belligerent of film-makers. He loathed authority and it showed. Even when he was making a costume drama, the hile came out. In his 1978 adaptation of Buchner's play, Danton's Death, you half suspect that he regarded the prissy, bloodless bureaucrat Robespierre (Ian Richardson) as an 18thcentury counterpart to Alasdair Milne, the BBC Director-General who had refused to allow Scum to be shown the year before.

If Robespierre ia a ringer for Milne. Danton. the boisterous revolutionary: is not so very far removed from Clarke. He was not the typical TV drama director who gravitated to the Beeh via public school and Oxbridge. Instead, he was the working-class hero (or hooligan) who relished terrorising his bosses. He played the part almost to the point of self-parody. Richard Kelly's new book about him is full of stories of Clarke dancing naked on the bar in the BBC canteen; Clarke urinating out of windows or being thrown out of restaurants, or Clarke being arrested for drunk and disorderly behaviour. He was once even banned from using the BBC lifts, something which you cannot quite imagine happening to the sainted Ken Loach.

Of course, if Clarke had been nothing but a hooligan with an eye for a well-composed shot, he would hardly have achieved the acclaim which is belatedly coming his way. His antics might have been remembered fondly hy his crews, but the films themselves would hardly have last-



Boys behaving badly: it was with his uncompromising 1977 film 'Scum' that Alan Clarke (below) burst upon the scene

ed. Perhaps, though, what shines through even more than his antagonism for authority is his affection for the downtrodden, nondescript characters ignored by most film-makers. Christine is a perfect example. Its heroine (Vicky Murdock) is not the archetypal addict. We do not see her sweating or suffering withdrawal symptoms like Christiane F. Nor is there any of the high jinks you find in Trainspotting. She is a plain. reserved teenager trying to ward off boredom. Clarke does not moralise about her any more than about the trainspotter in The Last Train Through The Harecastle Tunnel (1971), or the adolescent terrified he has come face to face with the devil in Penda's Fen (1973).

Such films are a corrective to the idea that Clarke was only happy showing skinheads and Borstal boys. He was one of the pioneers of m-yourface steadicam film-making. In Mode In Britain, the hand-held camera reflects the violence and restlessness of the Tim Roth character in a film testosterone. But Clarke could show restraint and sensitivity. In Christine, the hand-held camera captures per-

istence. Road (1987), Clarke's adaptation of Jim Cartwright's play, marries the two atyles, youngsters strutting through the streets to the accompaniment of Gene Vincent counterpointed with battered houselornly along, knowing they are going nowhere. When needs be, Clarke has seems like a grim eternity.

fectly the monotony of the lead's ex- way for you," remembers writer-di- fused to play the corporate game. creasingly apparent. They will last.

rector David Leland, who first met Clarke on the set of a BBC Play for the Month in the 1970s and went on to write three films for him (Psy Warriors, Beloved Enemy and Made In Britain). Clarke was unpopular withwives and old-timers marching for- in the BBC, not only because of the cootroversial subject matter he was drawn to, but because of his working which almost seems fuelled by the confidence to hold a shot for what methods. He often cast unknowns and kept his writers on set through- attracted minimal audiences when 'Alon Clarke', is published on 21 Au-"He was the actor's dream, one of out shooting, something which was they were first shown, but as time gust by Faber, £12.99 paperback those directors who would go all the unheard of In other words, he re- passes, their quality becomes in-

is being talked up as one of the great British post-war film-makers. "A poet for all those beasts who pace and measure the limits of their cages," writes David Thomson in his Biographical Dictionary of Cinema. Definitely the best of all the British new wave," proclaims Harmony Korine, the young American writer-director of the clearly Clarkeinfluenced Gummo. Lizzie Francke, the director of the Edinburgh Film Festival who has programmed a retrospective of his work, describes him as "the Robert Bresson of British cinema" - on the face of it, an unlikely compliment for a workingclass Liverpudian and diehard Everton fan (his son is the football journalist, Gabriel Clarke) who did most of his work for television, "Posthumous fame," the critic

Eight years after his death, Clarke

Hannah Arendt once wrote, "is less arbitrary and often more solid than the other sorts, since it is only seldom bestowed upon mere merchandise." In Clarke's case, Arendt's observation seems particularly apt. His films

both expected in Edinburgh to talk about working with Clarke. It would be a pity, though, if Scum and Mode In Britain, the two films in which they appeared, are allowed to overshadow the rest of the retrospective. Stylistically, much of Clarke's other work is equally, if not more, interesting. Watching "late Clarke", one has the impression of a technique refined to such a degree that he no longer needs to rely on the contrivances of plot and character. Two dramas, in particular, stand out: Contact (1984) and Elephant (1988). Both deal with Northern Ireland. The former, shot in semi-documentary style, follows a British army platoon on patrol in Crosmaglen. There is virtually no dialogue other than the orders the commander (Sean Chapman) bellows to his men. For most of the film, all we see is soldiers tramping across fields and elbowing through hracken. The soldiers are on edge and so are we. Snipers may be harking over the brow of each hill. The finale, in which Chapman prowls around a car which may be booby-trapped, is excruciating. Clarke shoots it in long-

shot, at microscopic pace, creating an almost unbearable tension. Elephant, which was produced by Danny Boyle of Trainspotting fame, is even more extraordinary. Clarke has stripped the film of all the usual cartilage. There are no characters as such, no plot. Instead, we watch a series of cold-blooded murders. Again, Clarke heightens the tension by refusing to cut. He will show an assassin, dressed like a businessman, walking hundreds of yards, finding his target, shooting him in the head, and then walking back again. Violence encroaches everywhere. A man out for a stroll in the park is murdered. A garage attendant is murdered. A youth playing football is murdered. A man in overalls cleaning up swimming pool changing rooms is murdered. The point, Boyle has said, was to show "the ignorant mainland" the remorselessness of the violence.

Elephant is, literally, a short film about killing. It is a most point whether or not it works - without a sense of place or a political context, it cannot help but seem a cold and abstract exercise. Nevertheless, the audacity is hreathtaking. That Clarke was prepared to risk making it goes a long way to explaining why he is so revered. Nobody else would have had the courage.

The Alan Clarke retrospective runs throughout this year's Edinburgh

The flavour of the Fringe, Michael Jackson, page 23

EXIT POLL

VOODOO LOUNGE, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON

I LIKE IT, it's nicely decorated and I like the Terry O'Neill photographs. The one of Terence Stamp and Jean Shrimpton I want. I want to join, but the membership is full up. The licensing hours are good, the furniture is great, and even the toilets are nice. I'll be coming back. I just hope they don't have an arsey door policy because the bouncer was giving it the big I-am and I don't think London needs another place like that.

Lancelot Narayan, 29, press officer, London

IT'S REALLY lovely. It's very soothing. It's obviously early days for the staff but they look great. And the licensing hours are great. It's for the discerning drinker and even though it's in the heart of London, you would feel comfortable bringing your other half here. A lot of bars around the centre you wouldn't because of men

Colin Tyirer, 27. restaurant manager. London

I THINK THE way they have put the thing together, in terms of the lighting and the styling, is extremely well done. This is really comfortable, though you feel slightly under-dressed. It is a really impressive building. It's more intimate than the Atlantic, which is like a factory. I like the individual sections; their different shapes give the place an intimate atmosphere." Pip Charsley, 33, manager,

THE FIRE EFFECT behind the bar is really amazing. I also like the music because I am a hit fed up with the boom-boomboom; here, you can chat and enjoy the music at the same time. I love the lift and the fact that they have kept the original features, I was expecting more leopardskin warmth. Everything is white so it kind of freezes you. Henrietta Rendle, 29, tour guide, Landon

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I DON'T REALLY see Mick Jagger choosing this for his home: he'a definitely done this for tax reasons. It's cool, I would come back. This bar is nicer than the VIP bar, I don't want to go there. It has little tiny chairs you have to sit up straight rather than lounge." James Farmer, 24, publishing executive, London

Stop the week - I'm in the grip of Saturday Night Fry

In the interval of Thursday's early evening Prom. which included a piece by the more or less forgotten English composer John Foulds, Malcolm MacDonald presented a small feature claiming him as a forgotten master. Look, he said, the man wrote a vast World Requiem, in memory of the dead of the First World War, which lasted two hours, had 1200 performers, and was for some years regularly performed on Armistice Night at the Albert Hall: "That would seem to mark him out as a deeply serious composer." MacDonald reckoned.

Well, yes, in one sense I suppose

LET'S TALK seriously for a moment. it does, but was he really arguing that seriousness of subject-matter is a valid measure of artistic worth?

Sickness, the absence of friends, those occasions that mark the passing of childhood and the arrival of responsibility, hirth, death, marriage - you don't get weightier themes than these, but that doesn't necessarily mean the people who write rhymes about them inside greetings cards should get their names into The Oxford Companion to 20th Century Poetry.
Which hrings us to Stephen Fry's

Fry Radio 4. Saturday obviously). urday evening, with a mildly After the peculiarly nauseating pompous and self-coosciously

THE WEEK ON RADIO

REVIEWED BY ROBERT HANKS

trailers that have been wafting around the airwaves lately ("I'm so lucky. Be lucky. Join me"), the reality proved quite enjoyable, rather as a good puke sometimes can. At times. it seemed as if we were caught in a new chat show Saturday Night timewarp - here we were on a Sat-

guests that included Laurie Taylor. seems to have whooshed from my God, could the huggers really have brought back Stop The Week?

If it sticks around long enough. it may sink that far, but at the moment there is a neurotic energy to Fry's chairmanship, and a tension created by the sheer quantity and diversity of guests, that keeps it zinging along, Arnold Wesker talked about his latest play and how it had been kept out of theatres by managements' timidity (read: "Quality control"): Tom Baker talked about growing old and the dangers of Viagra to men with an overlarge

monkish inhibition to Julian Claryesque camp); John Sessions did pointless impressions, which sounds like half of a fairly apposite clerihew; Sinead O'Connor sang a song about the children of Rwanda and showed a touching inability to finish any sentence without making reference to her awful childhood; Laurie Taylor, Jonathan Miller, discussing whether happineas can be

rooted in the individual. subject; but the seriousness was

intellectual host, with pre-acripted "skittle" ("I've been aucking on undermined by the fact that the one part of In This Together (Radio 4. frivolous and pointless than that

Early on, Fry worried at some length about the dangers of pretentiousness, before dismissing the problem - "It's pretentious to be afraid of pretension". Well, call me pretentious, then, but this little celebration of the joys of being famous enough to have an opinion and there were Anthony Clare, scared the willies out of me. But it gripped me too, as headlights grip

Fry's charmed circle of celebrity Clearly, this is another serious contrasted cheesily with the outcasts Jenny Cuffe met in the first

rabbit

witticisms, and a group of amart Skittles all day," quipped Fry, who factor uniting all the guests was Monday), a series on social exclucelebrity; you can't get much more sion. The programme started with a quotation from Tony Blair - "I don't want there to be any forgotten people in the Britain we're going to huild". Cuffe found signs of hope on the Pennywell Estate in Sunderland; but she also found people who had slipped off the bottom of the ladder, for whom Blair'a inclusive enthusiasm seemed to have found no room. You imagine him clearing his desk at No 10 in five or 10 years' time, slapping himself on the forehead and crying out: "Bugger! Why didn't somebody remind me about the poor?"

WORK IN PROGRESS

ARJ BARKER, COMEDIAN

People can sit back and think, 'Wow!'



Mean and moody: Arj Barker

Arj Barker won a Perrier Award for Best Newcomer at last year's Edinburgh Festival, and returns this

All set?

Absolutely. I've been preparing for at least a couple of hours and I think it's coming together, but it's very scary until you get to do the show. I did a preview last night, to a nearly sold-out audience. It was very playful and there was a spontaneous feel to it. We had a lot of fun.

So you'll be sticking to that form? No. not really.

New material? I'd say that the show is 85 per cent hrand new, and what's old has been improved upon. Last year, I had more of a structure, in that I was supposed to have just gotten to England for the first time and I was very naive. That gets unrealistic. I'm still naive. character is - kinda dumb. But I'm where I was ordering a Big Mac at

people think I'm English.

You mean the Scots do? No. they think I'm Scottish. Of course, all this is only until I open my mouth. Then they think I'm English and want to beat me up.

Other changes?

I've been getting more into acting because I want to convey emotion, even if it's something as ludicrous as not. In the end I have to tell myself talking about a bar of soap. The classic subjects are still in there - dating and so on - hut this year people can expect to sit back a couple of woman is aged and weak, she can't times during my show and think "Wow! That made something stir inside my chest". They may just be gas pains, but it also may be because Arj Barker is trying to say something that matters.

hut that's just because of how my There's a true story, for instance. (0131-556 6550), until 31 August

also more used to England. A lot of a drive-thru in the countryside, and a cow had wandered up the fence just next to my car. I won't give away the ending but it was a very emotionally-charged moment and I think a lot of people are going to feel that. It's a little like the story of the homeless woman I did last year I'm on my way to a show and see her picking up cans so she can sell them for two cents a can, and I think "Is this fair?" Then I ask the audience If it's fair and they say of course it's "Damn it, Arj, you go to the show. There'll be plenty of time for can collecting when you get back. That get them all." I like stories that sound poignant but end up ridiculous.

> Do you know any Beckham jokes? No, I'm afraid he'll kick me.

Arj Barker's show plays at the Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh INTERVIEW BY NICK FEARN

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON DAVID GHILCHIK

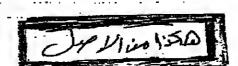


A MOMENT that would pass unnoticed by most, certainly not be considered to merit immortalisation, is vividly worked into our emotions by painter and illustrator David Ghilchik in this 1923 Punch cartoon. Here on the balmiest of afternoons is the

sweetest of little boys, his supplicant's hands placed just-so on the knee of the coolest of mothers. (We note, with a sigh, that she is wearing unsuitable shoes.) Here, too, is HIM, with

neck of hull and also

the swimming costume of a hull, striding off to invade France before tea. They just don't make characters like that any more. We have to admire him; so must the boy; so must the mother whose dea right leg that dares all, the sirable gaze, unheedingly, he also commands.



THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 8 August 1998

Cabaret is live and kicking again thanks to acts like the Callaway girls and now London has its chance to say thank you. By David Benedict

Sisters at diva pitch

SINGLE-HANDEDLY, exactly 12 years a job playing there six hours a had talent but I also knew I had a lot I read Dorothy Parker. She listened ago, singer Barbara Cook reignited the London cabaret scene when she entranced audiences at the Donmar Warehouse. On the back of they didn't notice." And within 18 reviews you couldn't pay for - "for two hours I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," swooned one - she sailed into the West End and has been conducting a two-way love affair with London ever since. The hot

news is that she's back. The art of cabaret is about intimacy. Cook's musical bonesty is strong enough to draw you in at a gargantuan venue such as the Albert Hall, scene of her 70th birthday bash last November, but seeing her up close and personal is completely different. Tickets are simply vanishing from the Donmar box office, but, if you can't get in, there's more where that came from in the rest of the Donmar's Divas season.

Cook's week-long engagement is immediately followed by Imelda Staunton. Anyone who saw her sensational Miss Adelaide in the National's Guys and Dolls is likely to sell their grandmother for a licket to see her fronting a brassy 10-piece big band. But first up is the London debut of sister act Ann Hampton Callaway and Liz Callaway.

With dreams of being an actress, Ann hit Manhattan three days after Liz in September 1979, and, on their first night, they walked from their "horrible hotel" into a piano bar across the street. "This pianist was asking for requests and someone suggested something and he said 'Oh I can't sing that'. But I was 21 so I said 'I can'. But then he couldn't play it so I said 'I can play it too'. So I sang 'Sometime When We Touch', got a miniature standing ovation and

months she was making the first of countiess appearances at the famed

These days, her shelves groan becabaret awards for her appearances across the country, not to mention her songwriting which she claims "came out of desperation and being a morose adolescent". She threw a black-tie Martini party at her home

'My piano was terrible and I only knew 20 songs, but these people were such alcoholics they didn't notice'

wben Barbra Streisand's latest album was released. Why? Because after 10 years of trying to get a song to her, Streisand recorded it. The album charted at number one and she positively purrs at the mention of the forthcoming royallies.

Over here, her reputation rests on a couple of well reviewed seasons at Pizza on the Park, but Londoners have yet to meet the kid sister. Not that Liz is exactly an unknown quantity. When Barbara Cook sang Sally in the star-studded, impossibly glamorous live concert version of Southeim's Follies, Liz played the younger Sally. Her career trajectory too had been pretty swift. "I knew I

night. And my piano playing was ter- to learn. I wanted to be in the chorible. I only knew 20 songs but rus of a Broadway show within these people were such alcoholics three years. That seemed a reasonable goal."

In fact, it took just one year for her to be cast in Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along. During rehearsals she'd met lyricist Richard Maltby Jnr and neath the weight of truckloads of after Merrily flopped he cast her in the lead in his cult show Baby, giving her the best song the soaring second act knockout "The Story Goes On". Since then, she's been doing very nicely, thank you, singing the key role of the American wife in Miss Saigon, recording solo albums and lending her voice to the soundtrack of the animated Anastasia. Inbetween times she and Ann have occasionally managed to make their packed diaries coincide to perform together in Sibling Revelry.

On a hot Manhattan afternoon, the two are borsing around in a rehearsal studio, cheerfully upstaging each other as they finetune their evening of duets and solos.

At one point, they hurl themselves into a theatrical medley to rival Ethel Merman and Mary Martin, covering everything from the predictable "Sisters", through to the famous Garland/Streisand big-belt arrangement of "Get Happy" and "Happy Days Are Here Again". Sandwiched in-between is a snatch of the dramatic "A Boy Like That" from West Side Story. Ann growls, raising herself to her full 5ft 10in. "Look, if this is melodrama, I really should play melodrama..." "Oh no, no," begs Liz, "please..." Divas they may be, self-important they're not.

As Ann tells it, the differences between them are that while growing up "Liz read Nancy Drew mysteries,

to the Monkees, I listened to Miles Davis". That explains the jazz inflections of Ann's vocal style. She has both a phenomenal three-octave range and an uncanny ability to impersonate everything from a tenor sax to a high trumpet.

As for the Dorothy Parker note, it sums up her laconic wit. Liz is the more optimistic of the two, a quality that translates into an appealingly fresh, hopeful sound. It's also a dramatic voice, so it's slightly surprising to learn that she doesn't really like doing solo work. "If the whole of Sibling Revelry were duets I'd be really happy." Audiences thrilling to her powerhouse rendition of Stephen Schwartz's "Meadowlark" are likely to disagree.

Yet cabaret singing is largely considered to be a dying form. The classic American songbook has been betrayed by schmoozy lounge acts. The almost forgotten marriage of musical and textual truth is at the heart of the Divas at the Donmar season. "What we do is kind of rare these days," concedes Ann. "You get up, you plant your feet on stage, you sing. And they can see everything that's going on inside of you. There's nothing fake in this type of performance. You can't lie."

The Callaways' success back bome proves the existence of a growing audience for this kind of intimacy. If they have anything to do with it, London will respond in the

Divas at the Donmar: The Callaways are in 'Sibling Revelry', 10-22 August: Barbara Cook (24-29 August): Imelda Staunton (1-5 Sept)



Liz (left) and Ann Callaway, square np for a stint at the Donmar in 'Sibling Revelry'

Composer, producer, Avenger: just don't call him a polymath

Laurie Johnson's TV theme tunes are classics. So why has it taken 27 years for a serious piece to get its premiere? By Meg Carter

years to get round to staging the first novels. And that's not to mention his public performance of his 1971 com- latest musical project - The Glory position. Synthesis. Better late than Road, a musical based on the story never, the symphony will finally be of Moses. His latest project, curertormed by the London Big and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall tomorrow night.

The delay, however, is hardly surprising: Johnson has had rather a lot on his plate. The veteran composer and producer, who learnt his trade with Jack Parnell among others, has since composed in almost every conceivable musical form. His film work includes the score for Stanley Kubrick's Dr Strangelove. Among his TV compositions are memorable themes for This Is Your Life, The Professionals and The Accengers - the music for which is the only original element to feature in Warner Brothers' remake. His numerous theatre credits include the music for Lock up Your Daughters.

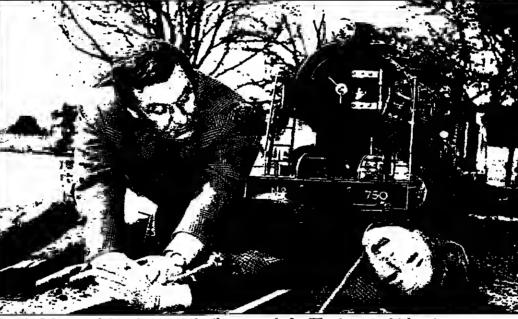
In recent years, Johnson's activities have been influenced by his own TV and film production interests. In partnership with Brian Clemens, he owns the rights to The Professionals and is executive producer of this year's TV re-make. In partnership with John Hough, he co-owns Gainsborough Pictures which owns the TV

IT'S TAKEN Laurie Johnson some 27 rights to Dame Barbara Cartland's sical on the life of Charles Dickens.

"Twe been called a polymath - I wasn't sure whether to laugh or sue." he smiles. "But I suppose you could say my interests and various projects seem disparate. In fact, while the springboard may differ, my music is the common theme."

He now writes only for his own productions which gives him the freedom to indulge his passions, especially for big band music. "It's a sound many younger people bad never been exposed to," be says. "It bas become particularly popular in the US following the success of Harry Connick Jur and Natalie Cole. So we brought together the best jazz and orchestral musicians from across Europe, including Don Lusher and Tommy Whittle, to perform the music not catered for by the orchestra, whether pop or more

So far, the London Big Band has played at the Palladium and the Barbican, where it was filmed for a video which became a number one seller at Tower Records in London. John-



Laurie Johnson, right, who wrote the theme music for "The Avengers' (above)

son's aim is to broaden the appeal of big band music. And he is doing so by composing music which challenges conventional musical genres.

The Glory Road, for example, was first performed last year by the London Big Band and a full gospel

choir With lyrics by Herbert Cles and symphony musicians with a Miserables) Kretzmer, the narration was provided by Hollywood veteran James Coburn. "His voice had the quality and timbre perfectly suited to American gospel", Johnson says.

contemporary twist - pop musicians. and a 23-year-old soul singer, Alexia, will also join them on stage.

The evening is in two parts: the second the first live performance of Sunday night's concert involves jazz



Sunthesis. All his work is written with international appeal in mind, Johnson explains. "You can't afford to be parochial. I never write for a particular audience - you have to ask Will people want to listen to this, anywhere in the world'. Take The Avengers: worldwide it had TV audiences of 500 million, it regularly attracted around 18 million in the UK."

He is also driven by the desire to

The best were totally integrated with all parts of the film. Music is cinema. It plays on the subconscious and manipulates an audience. Themes play very little part in it zen Kane, yet music made a signiflcant contribution to it. This is a different approach to grafting on music only to make money through sales of the soundtrack."

The best scores tell stories that pictures can't, he adds. Boz, inspired by a life-long enthusiasm for Dickens, focuses on the author's life the inspiration for all of his stories. "It's a story never told. The story of a man who was many people. And the music takes it to a new dimension." Johnson has completed and recorded the score, and Kretzmer the lyrics. He is unsure how it will first be performed, live or on film, but funding has already been secured with the support of Lord Grade.

The Professional: The Best of Laurie Johnson' and 'The Musical Worlds of Laurie Johnson' are out this week on PolyGram's Redial label. The first performance of 'Synthesis' tales place tomorrow at the Royal Festival Hall (0171-960 first half a tribute to Gershwin, the blend music and performance. He 4242). Warner Brothers 'The points to classic film music scores: Avengers' opens on 14 August

		THE WEEK	IN REVIEW		BY NICK FEARN
	OVERVIEW	CRITICA	AL VIEW	ON VIEW	OUR VIEW
THE FILM ARMAGEDDON	Disney's new blockbuster has a motley crew of astronauts-cum-oilmen sent to save Earth from the summer's second asteroid attack film (hot on the heels of Deep Impact). Starring Bruce Willis, Liv Tyler and Ben Affleck.	A weary Ryan Gilbey reported that "this deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action-adventure and a global disaster movie. Quite bafflingly it often struggles to be all these things at once". To The Times it was "so thoroughly, vigorously childish that it becomes almost endearing". Almost. The Guardion admitted that it offers "a relatively superior version of contemporary comic-	book film-making," but advised: "Leave your brain at home". The Doily Telegraph damned with faint praise: "In the blockbuster stakes of this joyless summer, Amagedon, with its special effects savvy and sense of humour, should take the palm:" The only detectable enjoyment was evinced by the Daily Mail when a "supposedly tear-jerking moment reduced me to tears of helpless laughter".	Armageddon was released nationwide yesterday, cert 12. 150 minutes	Attempting to succeed where Deep Impact failed, Armogeddon is already the higgest action hit of the year in the States, and there is no reason to think our taste is any better. We thought we had suffered enough, but Hollywood shall not flag or fail, it shall go on to the end, in the words of St John the Divine in Revelation, Lord come quickly.
THE MUSICAL NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY	Douglas J Cohen's musical adaptation of the William Goldman novel and 1968 movie that pitted Rod Steiger's serial killer against Lee Remick's prospective victim. With Broadway's Tim Flavin and Donna McKechnie.	Despite the "ugly" set and "proficient, rather than inspired, score", the "attractively game" cast contrive, judged Paul Taylor, to deliver "a pretty pleasurable way of treating an audience". The set is "cheap looking", sniffed the Daily Moil, deeming the show "distinctly average". The Financial Times found the tone of the piece "hard to fathom", though "At its best it is wonderfully corny, reveiling in its own	bad taste". It decreed that It was "a light comedy about a serial murderer and before long the comedy sticks in your throat". "No way to treat an audience either," quipped <i>The Times</i> , finding itself "in central London's tackiest theatre for a show it would be kindest to call amateurish". Lamenting the "waste of talent", <i>The Times</i> also rounded on the "makeshift looking" set.	No Way to Treat a Lady plays at the Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London. Tue-Sat 8pm. mats Sat & Sun 4pm, ends 23 August, £12.50-£20.	Some nagging sub-Sondheim tunes and lyrics may fall short of the Great American Musical, and the cast, whose performances have genuine merit, certainly deserve a better set. The production would benefit from some attention, but on the other hand, it is at least as good as some of the Lloyd Webber fare in London's West End.
THE TV PROGRAMME	Ex-Time Out columnist Jon Ronson's four-part documentary on the life of the critic. This week's opener followed Financial Times comedy critic Ian Shuttleworth in his own stand-up show at the Edihburgh Festival.	Thomas Sutcilife found it "undeniably entertaining", though he mischievously suggested "that this was the critical establishment we were watching, rather than some incidental players covering a scene well known for its incestuousness". Of the series, he noted that "All the critics who might have given a more sensible account of what they do were far too sensible to take part." Quite, agreed The	Guardian. "Didn't anyone ever explain to these nincompoops that you're not supposed to tell everyone what a cushy, cosy racket the critic's life is?" The New Statesman applauded the "deadly accurate assassination" of Shuttleworth. And the verdict of The Financial Times Itself? "This is a typically entertaining show and Shuttleworth should be commended on his bravery in agreeing to appear."	Critical Condition was the first in a four-part series on Channel 4, Weds. The next episodes focus on critics of opera (Rodney Milnes and the Evening Standard's Tom Sutcliffe), film (Chris Tookey) and theatre (Nicholas de Jongh and Michael Coveney)	A stitch-up by all accounts, Shuttleworth's loss is great television's gain. Ronson himself is good value, raising laughs himself as easily as he exploits the subject. The next installments should be compulsive viewing if the deadpan hatchet jobs continue. Critic-baiting has become far more subtle since the days when John Osborne would trip them up in the aisles.

Is there a doctor in the hut?

Seeing an African witch doctor at work puts our own rural problems into focus. By Duff Hart-Davis

ven before he put on his regalia, the n'ganja, or witch doctor, had a disconcerting air, for his dark, protuberant eyes were turned slightly outwards, so that he never appeared to be looking at the person he was

But according to his official citation, supplied and signed by the local Zambian district council, he was respectability personified. "Mr Nyirendra is a true herbalist," this document proclaimed. "The medicine be is using is not dangerous, but for curing, and he is doing very

Nevertheless, when he donned a long, blood-red cotton robe, and a muffin-shaped hat of the same colour, fringed with yellow. his appearance became somewhat sinister. Diagonally across his torso he slung several strings of beads. On his chest hung a small, headed casket and in either hand he held a wildebeest tail - a hank of shiny black hair a foot long, bound with rings of white and crimson and with yellow beads at the root.

Thus equipped, he took up position in the middle of a small grass hut. On his right stood an assistant, holding a tattered Bible open in both hands, as if reading the lesson in church. I and my two companions squatted on the ground in a corner.

When the first patient of the day - a hefty young woman - came and stood in front of the n'ganja, he began to swish one of the wildebeest tails fast up and down with his left hand, holding the handle of the other to his right temple, while keeping his eves tightly shut.

'He is calling the spirits," explained Sanford, our guide. Faster, hypnotically faster, went the swishing tail, up and down, up and down. Falsetto gibbering began to pour from the witch doctor's mouth. "Can you Sanford shook his head. "The spirits are

squeaky utterances continued, ascending their ailments.

higher and higher until it sounded like hirds twittering Occasionally the n'ganja held both tails in his left hand, and with his right made precise, clawing move-ments at the air. Then, for the benefit of the girl, the assistant hegan to interpret in the local language, and Sanford translated for us: "The trouble is in your stomach. It can be cured. I will make medicine to purge it. You must take the medicine I

In five minutes the consultation was finished. The patient handed over 5,000 kwachas - about £1.50 - which, in her terms, was a considerable sum, and went off looking thoughtful. But it took the witch doctor some time to wind down from his trance, which he finally seemed to throw off by rolling his neck backwards and giving several loud grunts of "Oh!"

Then, on their knees, he and the assistant began sorting through a litter of sticks and roots. hroken into short lengths, which lay oo the rush matting at the back of the hut. As they pushed different kinds of wood into heaps, Sanford steadily translated their comments: "This bark, ground up and put in your porridge, is for the ladies, to keep their bodies warm for a man. It keeps men strong also. This one is for back pain, this one for the stomach."

Soon it became clear that the doctor had medicines not only for physical ailments, but for psychological ones as well. Besides normal illness, he could ward off spells put on people by a fits, or sorcerer. "The mwanja creeper is to stop witchcrafts coming into your house; the babguru bush gets rid of spirits."

Outside, in the hot sunshine of the Zambian winter morning, it would have been easy to dismiss all this as mumbojumbo. But the point is that, in his own environment, the witch doctor's remedies work. With no recourse to Western doctors ly, and - whether through the chemical properties of his potions, or through auto-For several minutes the torrent of suggestion - many of them are cured of



Physician, heal thyself: does your local GP look like this?

perately poor. The people live in grass huts, without electricity or sanitation, and their water has to be fetched from a stream two kilometres away. Their diet consists almost exclusively of maize, which they dry, grind and cook into a kind of porridge. Their circular, grass-walled mites, are frequently raided by elephants. establishment, but in practice the families The nearest hospital is 20 miles away, but have so little money that this year only 60 of Rohin and Jo Pope, who run tourist camps where the idea of set-aside - of paying most people have no means of reaching the 320 pupils have been paid for "We are born and walking safaris in the park. it; and even though a few rural clinics have im poverty and grow old in poverty" he said

By Western standards, his village is des- been established, they lack most basic equipment and drugs.

"We depend heavily on traditional doctors," said Joseph Mwanza, headmaster of the school in Mwizala, another village close by. "Without them, many of us wouldn't have reached the age of 25."

Parents are supposed to contribute two dol-

cheerfully, "but we can't get ashamed of it, because it's not a thing of our making."

One cause for optimism is that money from wildlife tourism in the South Luangwa National Park, whose eastern boundary is close by, has now started filtering through to local communities, instead of being creamed off by central government. Mwizscheme, but also from the generosity of sun, are regarded as rare delicacies, and

The village, in consequence, has a sup-incomprehensible, but manifestly insane.

3

ply of clean water from its own borehole an incalculable benefit; but it is still looking for funds to buy modest extras such as mosquito nets for visitors to sleep under, and a volley-ball for the school.

For anyone caught up in arguments about rural conservation in Britain, it is a salutary experience to visit a country farmers not to grow food - is not merely

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEKEND



GET SWASHBUCKLING in Surrey this weekend at Birdworld Park and Gardens, which is holding a Treasure Island Fun Day. Pirates, complete with parrot companions, will be mingling with visitors in the picnic area, set among 26 acres of parkland, You can also see peoguins, ostriches, berons and alligators - although hopefully the latter are not too heavily involved in the Animal Eocounter Sessions. Refreshments will be served at Puddleducks Restaurant

and the Safari Snack Bar. Treasure Island Fun Day is on Sunday 9 August from 9.30am to 6pm at Birdworld, Holt Pound. Farnham, Surrey.

For 24-hour information, call 01420 22838. The cost is £6.95 for adults. £3.75 for children and £5.50 for senior citizens or disabled.

SALLY KINDBERG

Be a wild child for the night

Owls, bats and a 'smelly' cocktail party. Nikki Spencer got back to nature in Devon.

AS WE enter the woods our guide, day. Sensory awareness is the over the river and, right on cue, Chris Salisbury, tells us to pause for a moment before we step off the beaten track. "We ask you to unhurden yourselves of one thing, one reminder of the world you are about to leave behind - your watch. This." he says. smiling, "symbolises your willingness to participate in everya green velvet bag, and we give up the next 18 hours of our time. "He's Rohin Hood really." some-

one quips, and physically, he could aromatic things we can find and certainly pass as a modern-day version, with his naturally-coloured sniffing-session. clothes and his shoulder-length hair, topped with one of those widehrimmed hats you see people wearing on BBC2 survival programmes.

It's 6pm on a Saturday night, and 25 of us - assorted families, couples and friends aged from about five to 50 - are about to go on a wild night out", an event run on a nature reserve in the Dart valley by the Devon Wildlife Trust.

The "nights out" started a few years ago as a way of encouraging local schoolchildren to take a new look at their environment, and are now run every summer, and can be age to get two each). joined by members of the public from all over the country.

We've heen told to hring outdoor gear, a sleeping bag and a torch, plus a healthy appetite and a mind clear of preconceptions". The night, Chris explains, will be divided into four walks of about an hour and a half to two hours each. One to our campsite, one after dinner, one rather alarmingly scheduled for be-

fore breakfast and one after it. The first we embark on is an Earthwalk, of the kind pioneered in

name of the game. Chris is carrying two ancient wicker baskets, covered with rather twee checked tea towels. Whenever he stops, he pulls out a different set of props. At one point he has us all walking in a crocodile, one hand on the shoulder of the person in front, holding thing thrown at you." And he opens mirrors at an angle so we can look up at the trees. At another he is hosting a "smelly cocktail party". We collect the most pungent and then return to the group for a mass

> Our base for the night is a small clearing by the river and, although the event may be hilled as "wild", roughing it is not on the agenda. When we arrive at the camp we are introduced to four volunteers from the trust who will cook our food torganic, vegetarian and locally grown), help us put our tents up if necessary (certainly necessary in my case) and generally make our stay more pleasant by giving out such home comforts as roll-up mats should we require them (my

After dinner, as a warm-up (literally and metaphorically) for batdetecting and owl-watching, we play games where members of the group are hlindfolded and have to listen out to catch their "prey". We enjoy ourselves so much that it's quite a while hefore we head off up the river vallev in search of the real thing.

daughter Ella and I somehow man-

We may have got away from civilisation, but a hit of 20th-century technology still comes in handy. Chris uses a small hlack "hat detector" to track the hats' the Seventies as an antidote to the sounds, usually inaudible to the rather staid nature rambles of the human ear. We shine our torches for more information

we see dozens of hats swooping down over the water to catch the

ahundant insect life. The owls, however, are not so compliant. We hear one in the distance but it cannot he persuaded to come any closer, even when Chris tries to lure it with a recording of another owl. He assures us, however, that two out of three times this stratagem will work.

After a spot of stunning storytelling around the campfire, it is time to turn in. Chris explains that, in the morning when he wakes us, he expects us to "spring up like new-

born fawns". Anyone seeing most of us crawl out of our tents just after dawn would not have seen the similarity, but when Chris asks us whether we want a relatively easy walk in the woods, or a trek up on to the moors. I do find myself cather uncharacteristically leading the call for the latter.

The reward for our endeavours is not only a fantastic view over the whole valley as the sun comes up but also an early morning snack that is almost too beautiful to eat. On the heather Chris and the volunteers have laid out a blanket and covered it with slices of melon, orange, and grapes, surrounded with candles and flowers. Our "wild night out" has been a feast in many different ways.

Devon Wildlife Trust are running Wild Nights Out on 15 August and 5 September. Adults £30; children £18.75; family group (two adults, two children) £80. They are also holding a Wild Day Out on 11 October. Contact Sarah Cossom on 01392 279244

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A child gets a bird's eye view of the locals

Sarah Cossom

NATURE NOTES

WILL THIS be a good year for field mushrooms? The omens are not propitious. since the hasle requirement for a heavy crop is always held to be a hot summer.

Prolonged heat allows the mycelium, or fibrous root-system, to grow large and strong, so that when rain comes and the temperature falls, the plant has the energy to throw up fruit above ground level.

After the prolonged heat of 1976, whole fields literally turned white when rain at last fell in September But without sufficient warmth all activity remains subterranean,

Even if we now get a heatwave, it may be too late. But dedicated fungus hunters never give up, and much remains mysterious about their

quarry. Why do mushrooms always seem to grow in some fields, or parts of fields, and not in others? Why are some immediately infested with worms, which eat their way up the stalk, while others remain deliciously intact? Height above sealevel, inclination (to north. south, east or west), sun and shade seem to make little difference.

One traditional helief is that mushrooms thrive on stallions' droppings - and this is probably because stallions, like donkeys, habitually dung on one spot, thus creating concentrated deposits of manure.

DUFF HART-DAVIS



The thrill of the Chase

Cranborne Chase you can look down to where the kings of England stalked deer for hundreds of years. This and of rival estates descends through a series of interlocking hills and valleys, the chalk downs cleared for farming, their clay-topped brows covered with dense woodland. Among the trees, roebuck and fal-

low deer still breed and shelter from the gun. Some days you can see perhaps a dozen fallow deer lying in a huddle in the fields, enjoying the warmth. A dangerous foreign hunters seek trophy heads during the rut.

It is an extraordinarily empty land, which at times seems untouched by modernity. You need a horse to see over the high hedges, and traverse deserted valleys that the few minor roads pass by.

The handful of villages, often owned by a single family, are nestled inconspicuously into hollows. Building sticks to tradition - the flint fronts of the cottages are divided in regular fashion by a couple of lines of bricks or, in the grander churches, by stone. Thatch is making a comeback, complementing the white-washed Dorset "cobb" of some homes.

I'm standing in the midst of the vast woodland, whose depth makes this area so important to naturalists. It is perhaps the closest the countryside comes to an abandoned industrial landscape.

The hazel trees are overgrown for centuries their straight, flexible branches were conscientiously cropped and bent to build the 3fthigh sheep folds that once spread across the Chase. And the naturally

rom the top of Dorset's occurring ash and birch were cut to make England's finest brushes. Now it's like a graveyard - peaceful, eerie, but unproductive.

This is an area that has seen many battles. The Civil War devastated Dorset, so evenly was it divided between Royalists and Roundheads. But mostly people have fought over land use. On the edge of the hazel wood is Bloody Shard Gate, scene of

a fierce 18th-century skirmish between poachers and gamekeepers. Then there was the 100-year battle by farmers of the Chase for the right to destroy deer that strayed on to their land. In 1829, after 800 years of royal hunt, the deer lost their legal protection. In just two days, villagers shot 12,000 of them.

However, the latest battle does not involve poachers or farmers. It is about estate agents seeking to turn this rural idyll into a land with homes fit for the rich - because the Chase is only a 20-minute drive from Salisbury, itself just 90 minutes by train from London, Commuters and week-enders snap up properties.

Later this month, they will learn whether Savills, the upmarket estate agent, has pulled off a coup by persuading the local councils to permit the building of impressive mansions in some of the highest, most conspicuous points of the Chase. The largest is expected to go for £750,000; it is complete with garages, gravel drive, a dovecot and a 42ft-high tiled roof that will tower above the landscape. The plans for 21 luxury homes have caused outrage.

Savills acts as trustee of the Rushmore estate, the family home of Michael Pitt-Rivers, greatgrandson of General Pitt-Rivers, who is recognised as a forefather of

In a beautiful Dorset valley, a centuries-old feud continues, but now it concerns a thoroughly modern issue: the green belt. By Jack O'Sullivan



Interlocking hills at Cranborne Chase (top); Chettle House, a baroque battle site (above) Main photograph: John Lawrence

British archaeology. The estate, once the largest in Dorset, is an "area of outstanding natural beau-, but is desperately short of cash.

Mr Pitt-Rivers is ageing and ill. Much of his wealth has gone on a lifetime of travel, financed by selling the most productive land, leavwoodland of the Chase, as a disproportionate part of the remaining 7,500 acres. Hence, Savills' plan to raise £1.2m for improvements.

In Savills' opinion, the fundraising measure is vital to save the estate from a sell-off. They warn that a break-up could lead to far more property development. Management of the areas unique natural features would be "nigh on impossible". The best option, they say, is their high-value building, reducing the estate's dependence on farming.

Savills would probably get away with the novel scheme easily, but for the opposition of Edward Bourke. from the neighbouring estate. Mr Bourke, a solicitor, is a typical youngest son of the landed - passed over for the big inheritance, be serves as keeper of family knowledge. Chatting to him, you discover a devoted naturalist, keen to preserve the ancient landscape.

But you also realise that he spearheads a family rivalry that spans nearly 1,000 years. He can date it back to about 1250, when his ancestors were tenants of Mr Pitt-

Rivers' antecedents. That went on for 500 years. Then his family came into money, thanks to smuggling, for which the woods of the Chase provided wonderful cover

They bought their own patch of 1,300 acres bordering the Pitt-Rivers' estate and including the entire village of Chettle. The estate also boasts the elegant Chettle House, designed by Thomas Archer and described by Nikolaus Pevsner as one of the finest examples of baroque architecture in England. A rival, indeed, for the Tudor manor occupied just a few miles away by the much wealthier Pitt-Rivers family.

the Thirties. Rushmore is now occupied by George Pitt-Rivers, a famous Fascist in the Thirties, who was interned on the Isle of Man during the Second World War. Mr Bourke tells the tale of a row between George and his great-uncle Edward. in the gunroom at Chettle House.

The story goes that Pitt-Rivers chased Edward through the library. the oak hall, the stone hall, the dining-room and back into the library as he tried to get a good shot. "Fortunately," recalls Mr Bourke, "Pitt-Rivers was tripped up by the butler. The two men never spoke to each other again." And George Pitt-Rivers was never again invited to open the Chettle village fête.

Relations between the latest generation are warmer, but the rivalry has continued. Michael Pitt-Rivers has been as unconventional as his father George. He opposed Fascism and fought in the Second World War. However, he was, like his father. also jailed, but for a different reason: for indecency involving an under-age

boy, in the Fifties. In almost every detail, Michael rejected his father, who had taken his heterosexuality very seriously. marrying four times. Michael was married to, and then divorced, George Orwell's widow, an alliance that must have irritated his father's fascist principles. But he has since spent most of his adult life with his companion. William Davis.

When Michael was released from prison, the Bourkes invited him to to open the Chettle village fête. "My mother," recalls Mr Bourke, "used to say, 'who would we rather have to open the fete - a wife-beater like George or a homosexual?' She much preferred a homosexual."

looked on somewhat disapprovingly as Pitt-Rivers squandered his inheritance. Meanwhile, they have toiled away at their 1,300 acres, which, despite the fine house, is a vegetable patch compared with the Pitt-Rivers' estate. They are in no mood to give him the easy way ont and let his trustees cash in on a money-making loophole in the law.

"It would," says Mr Bourke, "create a completely unacceptable precedent if estate owners were able to secure planning permission for dwellings in the open countryside in order to provide money to maintain and enhance their estates."

This, then, is a story of a battle to save the countryside from the rush to build in green fields. A typical modern tale.

It is also about the decline of a great estate, which once spanned 35,000 acres, and whose owner was lord of the Chase. But, as in all country tiffs, it is crucially about long memories and hidden rivalries. We should find out soon who triumphs in this latest round between two ancient Dorset families.

A bounty-hunter's paradise

Weekend walk: dramatic cliffs are testament to

shipwrecks of old. By Sophie Poklewski-Koziell

THE UNIQUE geology of this part of the North Devon coast - Hartland -with its promontories of jagged rock, has made scrap of ketch, schooner cutter, brig, tug and warship alike. In just the 2.5 miles of windy Atlantic coastland that the walk takes in more than 30 ships have been wrecked and their crew claimed by the sea. The route follows the South West Coast Path, with its outstanding scenery and wildlife, and then cuts inland to the small sheltered valleys. An invigorating walk whether on a blowy grey day, or one of the rarer sunny ones.

The walk starts at Hartland Quay, where the old Harbour Master's house and outbuildmgs have been converted into a relaxed, old-fashioned hotel. The original quay is now washed away, but for three centuries allowed smacks laden with Welsh limestone and other goods to reach this previously inaccessible area.

Join the coast path and follow the well-signed route for 1.5 miles in a southerly direction. At first the path skirts behind a series of three grassy cliffs. The last, and highest, of these cliffs is named St. Catherine's

Tor and is said to be the site of minding the visitor that, for a medieval lighthouse chapel.

Apart from the spectacular rock scenery, there is plenty to admire just inches from the path, Scabies (cornflower-blue) intermingles with clumps of Sea Pink (Thrift). Honeysuckle grows wherever an opportunity arises and in wetter places, the saffron spikes of Monhretia are unmissable. This is also a favourite habitat for the Stonechat; its bouncing flight is a clue to its identity, as is its peculiar "tsak tsak" song.

The path climbs gently after St Catherine's Tor through grassland covered in a haze of white and purple clover, then down a rocky path bordered by dense patches of purple heather and thyme.

Having reached Speake's Mill Mouth it is good moment to catch your breath, and linger at the waterfalls. The four falls are impressive, the first being a 56-foot drop down the flat face of the cliff. An old donkey path leads up from the beach, re-

years, there was a business in collecting sand to enrich the farmland

From here follow the path inland, taking a right over the stream - a promising spot for a glimpse of the elusive Dipper. Here the path splits, so the over-energetic can be sent racing up the steep path along the lip of the cliff, while others might prefer the gentler way that threads its way through a mass of gorse and bracken, around the base of the hill.

The two paths merge and carry on along the cliff edge. Three fields after the rusty remains of a gantry, take the half-mile-long footpath inland into Elmscott. On meeting the road, the path takes a sharp left behind Post Box Cottage, through a field and onto a quiet lane. Carry on through Milford, a collection of small houses and a wonderful old farm (note some of the old cob

gardens is strongly recommended. There is an exceptional bog garden, 90 varieties of rose and Devonshire cream tea to be indulged in.

After the mill, take a left at

the first crossroads and at the second (Kernstone Cross) carry straight across down the lane marked "Unsuitable for motors". Fork left at Wargery farm and follow the track into Stoke. The church tower of Stoke St Nectan is the highest in Devon, a good landmark for lost seamen - and walkers. The church was founded in 1050 as a thankful offering for a husband saved from shipwreck. Many of the less fortunate victims of the sea are buried in the churchyard. Inside the church, don't miss the late Norman font, the 14th century decorated waggonhead roof and the impressive

At the back entrance of the church, take the fern-clad lane to the valley bottom. Following walling), to Docton Mill. A visit signs for the coast path, take a need the OS Explorer 126: to the restored mill and its left through a field and carry Clovelly and Hardand.

river, to the sea again. On the way there is a marvellous line of Hornbeam and Oak; styled by the strong gales, their branches snake up and out in impossible twists and curves.

Taking the coastal path go left, back towards Hartland Quay. On a fine day, Lundy Island can be seen. Watch out for the unstable cliff edges on Warren cliff, as the edge is sudden and the drops long. The rock strata on the beach below are quite incredible. They are a geologists' dream and jaw-dropping for the rest of us. For those curious to find out more about the rock formations, or the shipwrecks, a quick visit to the two-roomed Hartland Quay museum (50p) is a good idea. Full of all sorts of bounty washed up from the numerous wrecks, as well as dramatic photographs of sea rescues, it is well worth the visit.

The walk is about 6.5 miles long. To get there, take the turnoff for Hartland on the A39 between Biddeford and Bude and continue on to Hartland Quay. As a map you will

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Create a home gallery by propping up pictures on a ledge or mantelpiece and changing them when you feel like a new view

Are you game enough to put yourself in the picture?

the first thing I noticed about the current furoer exhibition at the Tate Gallery in London wasn't the they were mounted in. The closer I peered, the more each frame seemed just a little different from the others - individual pieces in their own right. Yet the frames themselves are usually overshadowed by the pictures they hold.

There is, however, one type of person who always notices the frame first. According to Christies, the auctioneers, some art historians, keen to take their knowledge one step further, will study the frames as well as the pictures, and then become collectors, searching for rare 16th century Renaissance frames or attempting to "reunite" frames with works from the same period. Although frame collecting is a specialist field, to the small band of collectors the frames are an art in themselves, and the general public is starting to catch on to the idea.

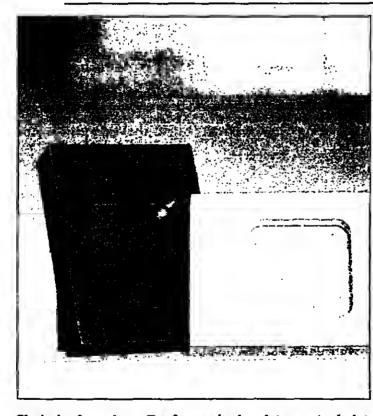
Frances have been around for centuries - think of grand houses with windows designed specifically to "frame" a particular view - but picture framing as a concept really evolved in the 13th and 14th centuries when artists would eraft a frame to accompany their picture. In fact, frames can often be a guide to particular periods in time.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, for example, gilding - probably because of artists' links with the Church in general - was a common decorative style, and frames became increasingly ornate with extravagant garlands or leaf motifs incorporated into llie design.

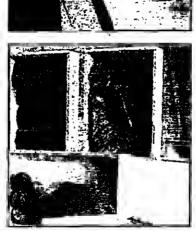
Distinct geographical styles also evolved. In Holland, 17th century 'Lutma" frames, with their swirling leaf motifs, were very popular and cilded black cassetta frames are typically thought of as Spanish.

In contrast, in North America, frames carved from indigenous woods with simple, flat edges began to appear and, in 19th century Britain, the mass production of

For well hung pictures, don't neglect the essential accessory - the frame. In fact, as Rhiannon Batten discovers, those in the know don't bother with a picture









Clockwise from above: Eye frames, In chocolate, mustard, slate and various other colours, £3.50 each, will be available from Habitat this autumn; Reslig deep frame, £4.50 IKEA; Bambu frames from £6 each at Habitat this autumn; Bás box frame, £6 from IKEA

homes and newly opened museums, set a precedent for standard frames and spawned a whole new generation of innovative frame deigners reacting against this.

This tradition has continued into the 20th century, when variety is definitely the name of the game. Although gilded frames remain a design classic, minimalist frames. frameless pictures or even pictureless frames are all easily found. People are asking more of their walls. and a recent trend in interiors seems to be the efforts that go into using whole walls as display areas. Antique cutiery, leaves or a way you hang them, says a lot. A wall

commonly displayed in picture frames. As Daisy Bridgewater of World of Interiors magazine explains: "People are experimenting and hanging all kinds of things, even pot lids, on their walls - a picture doesn't necessarily need to be a picture in the conventional sense".

In the Paris flat featured in the magazine's October issue, the owner decided that her picture frames were so beautiful there was no need to put pictures in them and left them hang solo.

The frames you choose to decorate your walls and, in particular, the

frames, designed for middle class treasured item of memorabilia are dripping in pictures from top to toe. temporarily you can simply bring homes and newly opened muse-commonly displayed in picture or a jumble of pictures propped up different pictures out when you or a jumble of pictures propped up above a ledge, can be somehow be more satisfying than a picture hastily hooked up according to the line of the best fit.

This home-as-gallery nature of picture display is a relatively new phenomenon in the average home. In a society where fashions change so frequently and where constant visual stimulation is both demanded and given "being able to change images is important," advises Toni Rodgers, editor of Elle Decoration.

"People don't want all their pictures on display at once. By propping pictures up on a ledge want a new view."

Whatever your individual taste, it has to be said that frames are a way of making a decorative impact, and there is oo reason not to have fun with your walls with the current range of affordable frames, IKEA's (0181 233 2300 for nearest store) Reslig deep frame (£4.50) is 50x70cm and takes anything up to 10mm thick, so grab a favourite slimline possession and give it an impact Damien Hirst-style.

For larger items, the Bas box is 31x20cm and costs £6 and, for self-

also does a floor easel for £17.50. Habitat (0645 334433) is a similarly good place to head to for frames; there is a gallery department in all Habitat stores, selling various prints and frames. Joining the Habitat Art Club (which began on 30 April this year) costs £15 (£10 for storecard holders) and this entitles you to 15 per cent off all gallery products as well as receiving a quarterly maga-nne and details of various special

Habitat's autumn range of frames continues the fashionable oriental theme of simple, pure living. Available from mid-September onwards, conscious stacking of pictures, IKEA Bambu frames have bamboo edges

offers and preview evenings.

and start at £6 for 10cm by 15cm. The Aluminus range is still extremely popular, and the smallest costs £7.50 for a 10cm by 15cm frame. Alternatively, create a family of frames to nest on top of your trendy, minimalist for £3.50 each.

And, for the truly dedicated minimalist, there is always the "framefree" option. According to Rodgers: "People are often using no frames at all, but instead mounting a series of photographs on art board and squaring them up immaculately to create a display."

Others are blowing photos up to fill a whole wall and the appeal of this is that you can have a go yourself by nipping down to your local quickprint shop. In some ways, you can't go wrong - even if the blown-up picture becomes grainy, this may give it a certain wistful quality you hadn't expected.

Where to pick up n good frame: Frame Express (01453 885087 for nearest store) has branches throughout the south of England. Prices range from £5/m to £50/m and shops are open from around 9am-6pm Mon-Sat:

IKEA (0181 208 5607 for nearest store) has frames starting at £1 for three 10x15cm wood frames, and going up to £22 for a 50x70cm solid pine frame; Each Habitat (0645 334433 for near-

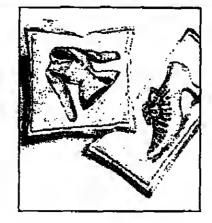
est store) store has a 'gallery' department stocking frames and

Christies (0171 581 7611 for enquiries) will be holding its next frame auction on 28 October, A 16th century Venetian frame was sold at the last auction for £8,000. The Home (01274 530770), nt Solts Mill. Saltaire. Bradford, is open from 10am-6pm daily and stocks a range of frames costing between £5 and £40, from simple metal frames to cloth and wooden frames,

Centre Gallery (0141 332 8880) is at 450a Snuciehall Street, Glasgow. Expect to pay £45-£55 for a 60x80cm single mount frame, or commission a frame in the next two weeks and get two-for-the-price-of-one

GOOD THING

NO STYLISH drawers should be without a hand-painted lavender sachet by Julie Perren, a theatrical artist and designer wbo has now started using her skills on fabrics in the home. Already well known in America, her lavender bags are available by mail order from Perren design (0181-873 0339) and start at £9.95.



MAD THING

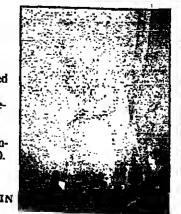
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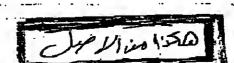


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TIM STEIN







Save Our British Sweetshops

Purveyor of humbugs and bullseyes to the great British sweet tooth, the high-street confectioner is back in business. By Karen Falconer

here is something irresistible about big glass jars full of hrightly coloured sweets. when they glint from a tiny window in a hrightly painted sweet shop. Childhood memories are reawakened: the witch's house in Hansel and Gretel; the magical sweet shops in Roald Dahl's literature; huying penny sweets at the

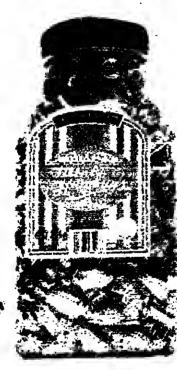
The British sweet tooth is legendary - making us the biggest consumers of confectionery in the world. And, few and far between as they may be, small sweet shops with their enduring memories of halfpenny happiness are back in vogue, iterally: "The old-fashioned sweet shop in Whitstable is a cult destination," said last month's Vogue. "At the seaside, it's hip to eat Ice-cream cones, aniseed twists and flying saucers from the local store."

والمعارية والإرابات المتألية المتألفة المتألفة

Indeed, Mrs Thompson, owner of that very Whitstable shop, Parkers, is beginning to feel quite a media star. Her single-fronted shop window, lined with jar upon jar of sweets, has suddenly found itself in fashion shoots and film sets.

"I ought to put copies up on the wall," she says, before scooping out another quarter-ounce of rhubarb and custards. The space is tiny. More of a walk-in wardrobe of caudy pebbles, glacé fruit drops, pineapple rock, midget gems, humbugs, pink shrimps, gobstoppers, aniseed balls, blackcurrant and liquorice ... 130 jars in all crown the yellow tongue and groove walls next to curtains patterned with Liquorice Allsorts and trays of one-penny chews.

A stream of customers, young, old





and middle-aged, flows in and out. who like it because it's so musual." "This is quiet." Mrs Thompson says children are back at school. They queue up sideways to come in. And the London types, they are amazed. The window reminds them of old times. They buy six or seven kinds of sweets. That's why we keep the jars in the window."

Small, well-presented and friendly, with round spectacles, Mrs Thompson fits her role perfectly as far as can be imagined from the grumpy, Llandaff shopkeeper in Roald Dahl's autobiography.

When we came here, a lot of peonie came in and said to me 'you're not going to change it, are you? Turn it into an estate agent or a fish and chip shop, or replace all the jars?" she says. "Of course, I'm not," she yould reply.

Parkers, like many of the old-style sweet shops, has been around for more than 70 years as a family business. When Mrs Thompson took it over four years ago, she'd never run a sweet shop and seems as starryeved about it as many of her customers: "People come in here for lots of different reasons," she explains. Some hecause they've never seen a thing like it before. Others to show their kids what sweets were like

then they were young. Then there are the nid regulars whn buy the same things every reek and lots of American tourists

ers. "You should see it when the grand metropolis. the traditional sweet shops fare better in quainter spots. Margaret Webb runs Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe, in Rye's old town, with her husband David, after huying it from his parents, who'd owned it for 18 years. Their business depends on

> late dominated confectioners. Part bakery, they make bread hedgehogs and other cake delicacies, but buy in all the sugar mice, pear drops, liquorice torpedoes, dolly mixtures, rainbow drops,

being different to the normal choco-

chocolate chewing nuts and other sweets, many of them hand-made. My metal-filled teeth rattle at the thought. "We sell sweets in

whatever quantities people want," says Mrs Webb. "We even sell one ounce portions and penny sweets, hut we are obviously keen to get the average spend up."

Plans include making their own chocolates - and seiling mail order from their new website.

Like many sweet shop owners, Mrs Webb is having to find new suppliers as the giant manufacturers, that are regularly gobbling up the smaller ones, think that it is not worth supplying her. "Benewicks told me before Easter that I could no longer have my old favourite, rose and violet creams," she laments.

Big manufacturers just want to

While newsagents, supermar- Shop in Cardiff's Victorian Royal Arbetween pleasantries with her cus- kets and petrol stations thrive in the cade is facing a similar quandary. On the one hand, business is good as perennial favourites like Lion's Sports mixture. Alphabet letters, nut clusters, coconut mushrooms, fruit salad and Pontefract cakes; on the other, some of them just can't be bought.

> "We have about 5,000 customers a week. But the manufacturers are stopping making lots of lines because the bulk of shops have just stopped "We lost Riley's chocolate toffee

> rolls six months ago, and there'll be no more Cherry Lips or Floral Gums - horrible, soapy things anyway - hecause their manufacturer went into liquidation."

> Indeed, although the British may each consume an average of 16kg of confectionery each year, the number of small-scale shops has declined dramatically since the end of the sweet-rationing war years; as has the number of manufacturers down, according to Trebor Bassett, from 580 in 1950 to nearer 80 now.

> Keith Bidder, director of Bonds, one of the few manufacturers still to service small customers by selling direct to them, is pleased that larg-er retailers like Woolworths, synnnymous with pick & mix, have recently introduced snme "tradiional" sweet sections.

Others, like the Co-op, are bringing back more pick & mix lines as (01222 387438).

The double-fronted Royal Sweet the older staples gradually come back into fashion.

"Pick & mix has shown a 26 per years," comments Mintel research. "Most sweets are bought on impulse, and consumers seem to prefer to sample toffee and fudge with a variety of other sweets."

But will forthcoming EC legislation, demanding that all confectionery be wrapped, be crunch-time for the nld - and potentially unhygienic - way of selling? Keith Bidder doesn't think so. "We can supply wrapped or unwrapped sweets. The only problems may be on sweets which come in different shapes and sizes, like Liquorice Allsorts, which

we don't make anyway."

Every shop has its different bestseller, and every customer his or her own first choice, often based on what they liked most when they were voung children.

At Parkers, I opted for a quarter bag of Sweet Peanuts, funny-looking toffees in the shape of monkey nuts. and crunched away. Proustian delight followed, as a gentle, creamy taste, lost to me since childhood, ffirted with my taste buds and coated my teeth. I'll be back.

Parkers is at 13, Oxford Street, Whitstable (01227 273557); Ye Olde Tuck Shoppe is at 9, Market Street, Rye (01797 222230); Royal Sweet Shop is at 7 Royal Arcade, Cardiff



Sweets for my sweet, sugar for my honey...

Six sweets you should be seen sucking this summer. By Rhiannon Batten. Photographs by Neville Elder.



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Bonbon Barnier, £5.75, Fortnum and Mason (017) 465 8666 for mail



Jameson's Raspberry Ruffles, £13.50 for a 2kg jaz Trebor Bassetts supplies to independent cornershops nationwide and most will sell whole jars

It's the right way to handle the left

Lefties unite to affirm their retail rights. By Charlotte Packer





Anything Left-Handed, above, the Soho shop and mail-order business, serves to placate frustrated left-handers

August, southpaws, skiffle-hands, gibble-fists, the kay-oeived and the scoochy will gather together up and down the country to celebrate their left-handedness at the seventh annual Left-Handers' Day. The event is organised by the Left-Handers' Club which was founded in 1990 by Lauren and Keith Milsom (both lefthanded, of course), the husband and wife team who, together with Reg Milsom (Keith's father), own Anything Left-Handed, the shop and mail-order company which caters to the southpaw's every need.

When it opened in the heart of Soho in 1968, Anything Left-Handed stocked just 40 items designed for use by left-handers, and not all of them were that useful. Victorianstyle mugs designed to keep mustachloed males from getting tea in their whiskers, for example.

Thirty years on, the moustache mugs have been discontinued and more than 160 new products have been introduced to the shop and mail-order catalogue. Knives and scissors are a particular stre which is not surprising given that be fore huying the company, left-handed Reg Milsom was a cutler and I was hooeless at slicing bread."

ext week, on 13 used to supply the original owners August, southpaws, with all their blades.

Since taking over the company 15 years ago, the Milsoms have beeo working hard not only to provide excellent left-handed goods (computer keyboards, £91; reverse-opening chequebook holders, £2.99; files, £4.99; and notepads, £6.99) but also to raise public awareness of the daily frustrations faced by left-handers.

"I never really thought I had any problems with being left-handed." explains Lauren. "But I do remember handing in my first piece of work at school and the teacher throwing it away because it was completely back to front. But as for using scissors or a can-opener, I knew that I found them tricky, but I thought I was just clumsy."

That was until she tried her first pair of left-handed scissors. The hlades are arranged differently and so used to the sensation of grinding the blades together. But now I would never expect anyone to use scissors which didn't match the hand they would naturally use." She also remembers her mother walking out of the room whenever she tried to cut be with think it's more painful for in person watching. I just thought



There are 6 million left-handed people in Britain, but teachers get little advice nn helping left-handed children

left-handers will come along to the stands around the country and try out the left-handed knives, tape measures, rulers, peelers, canat first I couldn't trust them: I was openers and even their slightly gimmicky anticlockwise watches, and see bow much easier their lives could be.

As well as being an opportunity to road test left-handed products, the event will give right-handers the chance to see what they have escaned: staff at British Telecom in Oxford will find their canteen has

Oo Thursday Lauren hopes that and various right-handed sports teams will find themselves up against the might of the left-handers in left-hand vs right-hand cricket, bowls, football and badminton.

Although this may sound rather light-hearted, the Milsoms insist that there is a serious message behind the otherwise frivolous activities. Lauren is constantly amazed by how little advice teachers are given on teaching left-handed children. "When you consider that there are 6 million left-handed people in Britain, and that primary become a "Lefty Zone" for the day school teachers will probably find ed children: although her son is they are inferior to their right-hand-

that they have two or three left-handers in their classrooms, it is sad that they're not shown how to help these children develop their handwriting properly."

She goes on to point out that when children learn to use rulers or scissors they are invariably designed for right-handed use, which could account for the idea that some lefthanded children are slower than their classmates.

Laureo has her own experience of the problems facing right-handed teachers dealing with left-hand-

left-handed like her and her husband, their daughter is not. Consequently the Milsoms have to think twice about everything they do to help their four-year-old, from lacing

shoes to laying the table.

They have drawn up a fact sheet specifically on teaching left-banders to write. The shop also has books on how to teach young lefthanders in general.

And for anxious parents who fear that their left-handed progeny will interpret any special treatment as a backhanded way of suggesting that ed classmates, Anything Left-Handed has recently launched a Genius range of fountain pens. There are currently five to choose from and each one is named after a gifted gibble-fist: Picasso, Da Vinci, Carrol, Escher and Michelangelo.

For details of the Left-Handers' Club tannual membership, £9.95; £7.95 if you join before 30 September), Left-Hunders' Day events or for the fact sheet, contact Anything Left-Hunded. 57 Brewer Street. London W1R 3FB (0181-715 1594). For mail order, call 0181-770 3722.

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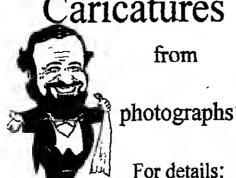
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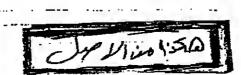
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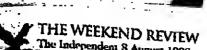


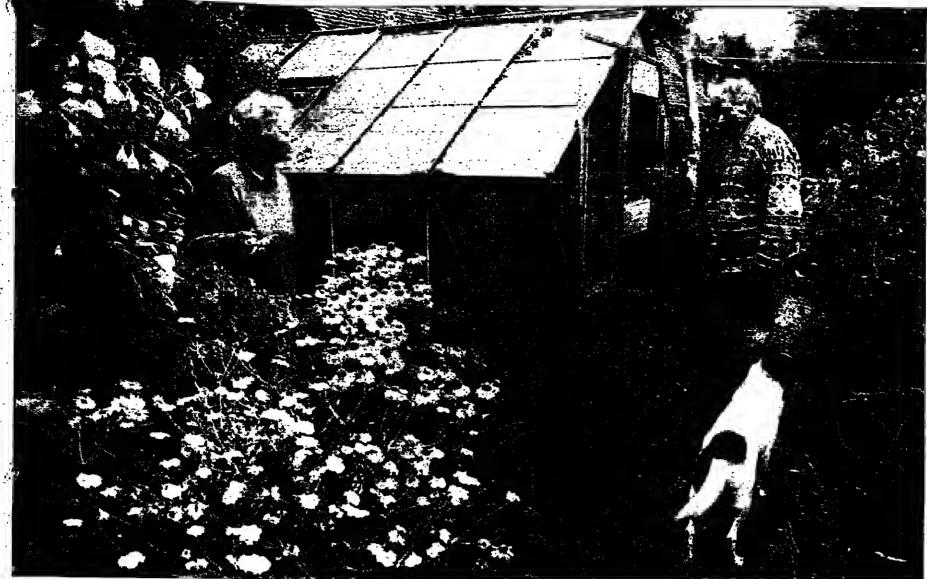
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Blüthners









Victor and Christine Scott in their garden (above) at Aston Abbotts near Aylesbury and the Clematis Cirrhosa from south-west Turkey which grows happily in their British garden

John Lawrence

Need an answer? Just ask Victor

Professional private gardeners, with their exhaustive knowledge of the natural world, are a dying breed. By Ursula Buchan

s August wears on, an air of tension hangs over British households. The imminent announcement of public examination results plays havoc with the even tenor of family ways. Success in examinations has become synonymous with a good education.

It was not always so. In private service gardening, for example, examinations once meant very little but experience almost everything. Intelligent men "worked themselves improver, then foreman, and, if they were very good and very lucky, to head gardener. Their knowledge has prodigious. Though there are hill men about who spent their working lives in private service, their ranks are thinning fast.

Victor Scott is one of those at the end of a proud tradition. He is 70 and has lived all his life in the pretty village of Aston Abbotts, near Aylesbury. He is a charming man, courteous, friendly and seemingly at ease. He is happy to talk, in engaging and fluent manner, and in a soothing Buckinghamshire burn of what he knows. And he knows a very great deal. He is a countryman and a gifted and hard-working gardener: but he is also a botanist and naturalist and largely self taught.

His earliest memory is of being lifted up on to his father's shoulders to look into a bird's nest. By the age of ninc, he knew the Latin names of

all the local flowers and birds. By the time he left school at 14, in the middle of the Second World War, he was already in demand to show people the wild flowers of Buckinghamshire. In his youth, he cycled as far away as the Lake District and Cornwall looking for, and photographing, British native flowers.

After a year on a local farm, he entered "private service", going to work as a garden boy for the owners of one of the big houses in the village. In time he became head gardener, in charge of extensive herbaceous ornamental shrubs and

study botany, zoology and geography, and he also took the Royal Horticultural Society's General Certificate, for which he received the highest marks in his year. So he pass some examinations in the end. Because of his interest in natural

history, Victor's reputation grew beyond the boundaries of the village. During the brilliant, and successful, campaign to prevent the building of London's third airport at nearby Cublington, he gave evidence to the public inquiry on the likely impact of an airport on local birds and, in trees, and the kitchen garden. Whilst (some two million strong) in the first study tours, to Cyprus. On trips Scandinavia. there, he attended night school to country. "No Airport Here" can still abroad she acted as courier and bird

wall of the Victorian house where his family has lived since 1854.

About 20 years ago, the garden where he worked changed hands; somewhat out of sympathy with the new owners' idea of what a garden should be, he took his leave. As he was already a part-time lecturer on botany and natural history for the Workers' Educational Association and had conducted study groups abroad, he decided to take his chance as a freelance naturalist. He was assisted by his wife, Christine, a retired whom he met on one of his

be discerned, painted on the side expert while Victor concentrated on flowers. Among other destinations, they went to Eastern Europe, Soviet Central Asia, Uzbekistan, India, Canada, Australia, and Costa Rica. They always took care to do their re-search beforehand, so that they might have an answer to any ques-

tion fired at them. Victor is certainly full of information. I never knew, for example, that there are many common plants of the Canadian Rockies, such as the one-flowered wintergreen and the calypso orchid, which grow as great rarities in north-east Scotland and

Unfortunately, a mild stroke has from the Caucasus; elsewhere is

recently forced Victor to retire from leading tours abroad. But there is always the garden. As well as an allotment, he cares for about an acre

surrounding the house.

At first sight it appears to be a charming and natural country garmany plants that you will not come by every day.

There are no fewer than 40 plants collected by Victor abroad (with the appropriate plant permits, of course). Here there is Arum creticum, which he brought back from Crete; there is Paeonia mlokosewitschii ('Molly the Witch')

southern Yugoslavia. A wander with Victor around his

garden is a tour of the world's temperate flora. Most impressive is the coastal redwood, Sequoiadendron sempervirens, which has grown into den, but closer examination reveals a handsome tree from seed. In fact, most of the ornamental plants are from seed, including some fine silver birches and Western red cedars.

There are peaches, 'Lord Napier' nectarines and 'Moor Park' apricots. growing in a home-made cold greenhouse; plums and cherries on a warm wall; a pond and bog garden; a rockery, and, of course, neat rows of vegetables. The Scotts can boast that they are self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. Further from the house, Victor has made a wild flower meadow, and has planted a hedge of native trees and an orchard.

Although his wings have now been clipped, Victor still cooducts local naturalists' groups and gives talks in the area. He is on the panel of lecturers for the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and has a collection of more than 20,000 slides. For a modest fee, any organisation in Buckinghamshire and the surrounding counties may engage him to give an illustrated talk. I should say it was money well spent, for listening to Victor is an education in itself.

Victor Scott may be contacted on 01296 681488

CUTTINGS

THERE ARE some simple inventions that change your life. For me, one such is the Test Match Special hat. This brilliant invention consists of an ordinary baseball cap, into one side of which has been inserted a small radio and a small retractable aerial. The sound is relayed to the ears by means of ear-pieces connected to batteries in the hat. For those people, like me, who have room in their hearts for both gardening and cricket, this cap is a godsend, I can now weed in

Match at the same time. This summer, I have had the pleasure of listening to Aggers and Blowers describe some pretty tense moments: Fraser and Croft manfully saving the Third Test while I moved the wild flower "meadow", and Atherton and Stewart finishing off the Fourth in fine style while I was cleaning round the

raspberries. Today I shall, no doubt, find plenty of reason to be out in the garden as the third day of the

the garden and listen to the Test Fifth Test at Headingley unfolds. That is, if I can wrest the cap from my husband. I recommend this hat even for cricket-haters, for the radio receives both Long Wave and FM stations, so the choice of stations is wide.

The cap is available at cricket grounds around the country for £15 and there is a floppy white sunhat at the same price. Or send £17 (to include post and packing) to the MCC Shop, Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, London NW8 8QN.

WEEKEND WORK

IF YOU sowed wallflower seed in May or June in a oursery row, pinch out the tips now to make bushier, free-flowering

Plants in pots and hanging baskets will benefit from deadheading to keep them flowering for a while longer. Feed them weekly with a general liquid fertiliser if you haven't already used a "controlled-release" one that lasts the season. Cut off the spent flowers of lupins, hardy geraniums and delphiniums

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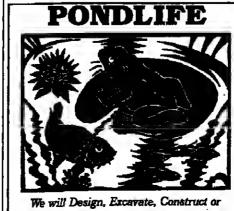


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HOME NEWS

London: A man who had changed his name to Free R Cannabis was convicted of possession of drugs at Southwark Crown Court despite his arguing that legislation banning cannabis amounted to a "deliberate oppression of civil rights". Mr Cannabis had been arrested outside the Home Office as he waited to present a plant to Jack Straw. He defended himself in court, dressed in hemp clothes and sboes made from cannabis plants.

Edinhurgh: John Kamakaze set a new world record by spending 15 minutes suspended in mid-air by eight meat hooks embedded in his back and one in each leg. Mr Kamakaze, who claims that pain is all in the mind, told Reuters: "It didn't hurt a bit ... The only thing that hurts is a hlister on my foot from walking about too much yesterday."

London: The number of people arrested for offensive and racist chanting at football matches increased last season from 10 to 33 according to official figures.

FOREIGN NEWS

Zimhabwe: A man has heen jailed for a month after he pleaded guilty to bottling his urine and selling it as perfume. According to local media, a woman who hought two bottles realised her mistake when she tried it out at home.

Tokyo: The world's oldest living twins, Kin-san and Gin-san celebrated their 100th hirthdays last week. They were born on 1 August 1892. Gin says she is in much better shape than when she was 100.

Stockholm: The Swedish newspaper Metro has reported the case of a suspected drug smuggler who was caught hy a moose. The man's car collided with the animal near the Norwegian border He was taken to hospital with minor injuries and his car towed to a nearby garage where mechanics discovered 28kg of hashish in it.



For the third year running residents of Christchurch, New Zealand, set a new world record for the number of people in a tramcar

Seoul: A husinessman and a dog-meat dealer have been arrested on charges of supplying restaurants with 4.800 dogs that had died of disease or been used for medical experiments. The contaminated dog meat was sold at a fifth of the normal market price to meet a hig demand. Most of the dogs had died of intestinal diseases, but 860 of them had been used to test ra-

Washington: Researchers have found that the learning capabilities of rats may be improved by playing them Mozart sonatas before they are born. Rats who had been played Mozart learnt paths through mazes more quickly than those played white noise or music by Philip

New Jersey: the title of Miss Crustacean 1998 has been won by a hermit crab called Crabopatra. More than 100 people sang "Here it comes, Miss Crustacean" as the winning crab crawled down a runway decorated with flowers to receive the Cucumber Rind Cup. Crabopatra won the beauty contest ahead of 38 other crabs including one called Leonardo DiCrabrio. "This may seem like a Mickey Mouse event, and it is a Mickey Mouse event, but it attracts a lot of attention," organiser Mark Soifer said.

Montreal: According to a paper delivered to the World Congress of Sociology, children who are never, or hardly ever spanked do better on intelligence tests than children who are often spanked.

SEX

Tokyo: The Pure Love Alliance, a group based in the US, held its first rally in Japan to spread its message of sexual abstinence and to preach against the American culture of sex. "American culture is infiltrating the world, promoting the spread of things like prostitution and pornography," said 24-year-old Tricy Sincavage. Our aim is to help clean things up." According to an AP report, however, the message is not getting through to every-one. "I don't know what they're talking about," said fried noodle seller Eichi Sasaki, 40. "Japan said no to sex before marriage at the turn of the century, but

Mexico City: Prostitutes have reached an accord with officials that allows them to continue working on one of the city's main streets, as long as they stay at least 20 metres away from churches, schools and hospitals, do not expose their intimate body parts or underwear and do not solicit minors. They must also be free of sexually transmitted diseases.

Anstralia: Police in the town of Kalgoorlie, a rough gold-mining town in Western Australia are reported to be trying to hring an old local tradition to an end. According to Reuters they are cracking down on near-naked young women, known as "skimples", who work as bartenders and give patrons a glimpse of their breasts or buttocks for a small fee.

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Fran Landesman, 70, poet

TO TELL you the truth, my game was to try and make it in show business. Then after my grandson, Jack, was born, I dropped the whole show business thing and became Granny Franny. And we made up some wonderful games; for instance, one of our favourites was called Bangle Towers. You know what bangles are. that you wear on your arms? I've got a vast collection, and the game was, each of us would make a tower out of the bangles, and the one with the highest tower won the game. Nothing to do with Ivana Trump at all. All my bangles are made out of plastic.

I can't get myself to care whether I win at cards or not, and I don't like ball games. Do you know a song called Seventeen"? Part of the chorus was: Those of us who wait in vain/for Valentines that never came/and those whose names were never called/when choosing sides for basketball..." That was me; I was one of those. At school nobody chose me because first of all I was very fat, and secondly, I wasn't any good at running.

The popular children were always the ones who were good at sport. Why is it that the physical side is so important? Jack, who is now 12, is no good at games. But he's terribly witty and clever, and I suspect people like him for that.

You wanna hear how terrifying he is? His grandfather called him up from hospital to say: "I'm back to my former self." And Jack said: "God have mercy on us all."

We weren't supposed to be witty as children, but I think there's nothing wrong with witty, clever children. I don't want them to be the simple little kids that we were supposed to be.

Fron Landesman is co-writer of Forbidden Games', a musical play to be performed at this year's Edinburah Festival. Details from The Pleasance Theatre box office (0131-556-6550).

CONFESSIONS OF A PUZZLE MASTER

CHRIS MASLANKA HAS BEEN LISTENING TO HIS LISTENERS

has mostly involved manic puzzle phone-ins in which one of the chief different. It was a daring, pioneerindicators of success was how exhausted the phone operative was in other words, untried and untestafter the programme. If he wasn't ed. The format put a number of peoworn out answering calls. I'd done ple around a table cracking each my job badly. If I did it well, listeners other's conundrums. Where was raced to solve such puzzles as:

common with each other and with 7058.

Q21 Replace each asterisk in C'U'B'E by a letter to make a word.

once confided to me somewhat beat them to the answer. undiplomatically: "They obviously believe that, if an ordinary person to say that they had beaten the panel like you can do such clever things, to the answer and to describe in

FOR THE last 15 years my radio work then, perhaps, they can, too." Radio 4's Puzzle Panel was quite

ing, ground-hreaking programmethe listener participation in that? I needn't have worried. Letters, e-Q1: What do 1, 2, 6 and 10 have in mails and faxes flooded into room For some the pleasure remained

purely passive - "Hearing impossible puzzles being solved by such clever people," as one listener remarked, but for most, the first level Clearly callers were attracted by of participation was in trying to a direct challenge. As a producer keep ahreast of the panel or even

Many listeners wrote in gleefully

genuine delight at scoring an intel-

Nor did they take the panel's learned pronouncements lying down. Quibbles abounded. It became clear that listeners were following every word that was said in a critical it - can outweigh "Need for pupils into the habit of monitoring cal way, recording it and replaying Achievement", especially for those thought processes and stating on the t again and again or staying up late with an over-pessimistic view of paper what you are doing; and here or the repeat on Sunda

puzzle, set each week in the form of threshold and remove the threat. Puzzle Panel encouraged active a puzzle story. When the World Ser- And even if the account fails to participation was in inviting the vice asked me to hroadcast puzzles to the hostages in the Gulf Crisis, it was puzzle stories they asked for. From the dark tales of wolves and the dark forests of Eastern Poland told to me as a child by my babushka grew my interest in natural soned logical accounts, algebraical

minute detail exactly how they'd magic, puzzles and the extraordi-gone about it. This was not mere nary possibilities of the everyday showing off, nor competitiveness, but the land of "What if?" just at our elbows. This is no bad place to visit, for further puzzles. for creativity is powered by "What ifs?" and not "Because that's how things are!"

This story-telling has its uses, too. "Fear of Failure" - as psychologists their own mental ab ides, a good Then there was the listener's story-and humour-can lower this But the most original way in which charm the listener into attempting creation of panel beaters: puzzles

the puzzle, he still enjoys a good story. But what profusion and diverse cific aim of stumping the experts. creativity these puzzles evoked. Some solvers sent pages of computer programming, closely rea-

versions and reams of intelligently directed trial and error, all filled out with personal anecdotes and ideas

Schoolchildren wrote in in their

best handwriting carefully detailing the steps by which they reached their conclusions. I remember how hard it was as a teacher to train pupils into the habit of monitoring were 12-year-olds doing it na devised by the listeners with the spe-

I expected the contributions sent by Don Manley, one of this country's most skilled verbal engineers, to be good, and they were:

Q3) Get down? I've got down! (4)

And be almost got one over the

panel with this one:

Q4) One is one of one (10)

But what surprised me most was the quality of the "ordinary" listeners' puzzle creations. It was of a quality and simplicity to make all of us

Q5) Nothing squared = a cube

That enigma, submitted by IM Berry, of Coventry, had us all barking our shins up the wrong tree.

And the following contribution 3. DUCK from Arthur Hall, of Goring-by-Sea, 4. RECIPROCAL was of the highest order, producing 5. OXO . a particularly pleasing answer.

Q6) Turn this year upside down and you get 8661, which is 6,663 years hence. Inverting next year gives 6661, which is 4,662 years away. Which year in history takes longest to be overturned?

The undiplomatic producer I mentioned above was perhaps right. though for the wrong reason. When it comes to creativity, there are no on Puzzle Panel look to our enig- ordinary people: we are all extra-

SOLUTIONS

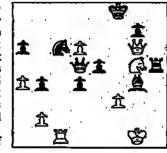
1. The only four whole numbers with three-letter names. 2. CRUMBLE

CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

AFTER eight rounds of the British championship, Matthew Sadier was beautifully placed to take the title. He was half a point alicad of the field and had met all his closest rivals. Two rounds later, however, all his hopes had evaporated. The first thing that went wrong for him was Jonathan Speelman. In round ninc. Speelman. playing White. looked a sound het to take half a point away from Nigel Short, who was the only man within half a point of Sadler. But Speelman played his worst game of the tournament and collapsed to defeat. With Sadler only drawing his game, that result allowed Short to draw level. In the tenth round, however, Sadler had an even worse accident.

He was Black against Mark Hebden and played his favourite Queen's Gambit Accepted, an opening that has brought him a string of fine wins in international tournaments. This game looked fur a long time like adding another notch to his tally. Ignoring White's pawn sacrifice with 7.e4, Sadler got on with his development, and, when Hebden sacrificed with 18.Bxh7+, it looked more an attempt to confuse matters than a combination he believed in.

As Sadler cautiously and accurately chose the right squares for his king. Hebden did well to 10 a4 b4 keep his attack alive, hut when 11 e5 Nfd7 they reached the diagram posi- 12 Bg5 Be7 tion after 34.63. he seemed to 13 Bxe7 Qxe7 32 Ng5 Bxg4 have run out of steam. White 14 Nbd2 Nc6 docs not even threaten fxg4 be- 15 Rc1 0-0 cause it would allow a check by 16 h4 Rfd8 queen or rook on h1. In this position. Black could have played 18 Bxh7+ Kxh737 Rf1+ resigns 34...d3 or 34...Qb3 (threatening 19 Ng5+ Kh6

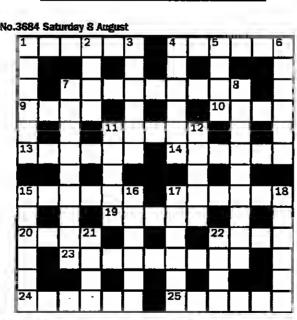


Qe3+) with a big advantage. The move he chose was good too: after 34...e4. Black attacks g5 with queen and rook. White's 35.Nh7+ Rxh7 36.fxe4 (36.fxg4 Rh3 wins for Black) was his last hope, but 36...Qh5 would have led to a simple win for Black, Instead Sadler hlundered - presumably in borrible time trouble - and after 36...Qe5?? 37.Rf1+ Black was dead.

White: Mark Hebden Black: Matthew Sadler Queen's Gamhit Accepted British Championship 1998 1 d4 d5 20 Rxc5 Qxc5 21 Nxf7+ Kg6 2 c4 dxc4 3 Nf3 Nf6

22 Nd6 Rxd6 4 e3 e6 23 exd6 Qf5 5 Bxc4 c5 24 Ne4 Rh8 6 0-0 a6 25 g4 Qd5 26 h5+ Kf7 7 e4 b5 S Bd3 Bb7 27 Ng5+ Kf6 9 Re1 cxd4 28 Qd2 e5 29 Ne4+ Kf7 30 Qg5 Bc8 31 Qg6+ Kf8 33 Rc1 Rxh5 34 £3 e4 35 Nb7+ Rxh7 17 Qe2 Nc5 36 fxe4 Qe5

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Battled (6) Titled person (6)

Disconcert (9) Front of lower jaw (4) 10 Unharmed (4) 11 Highland dance (5) 13 Ice-cream dish (6)

14 Advanced years (3,3) 15 Embrace (6) 17 Polar region (6) 19 Ruh out (5) 20 Comply with (4)

Noisy quarrel (6) Profit (4) Get to grips with (6) Japanese robe (6)

8 Large spider (9) 11 Story with moral (5) 12 Fierce look (5) 15 OT book (6)

Seaweed (4) 23 Tibetan leader (5.4) 24 Inferior (6) 21 Measure of length (4) 25 Administer (6)

DOWN

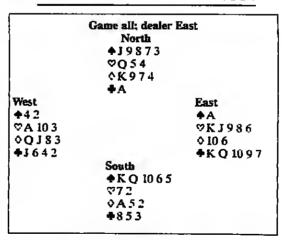
Part of eye (4) Steal (6) Noble (9)

16 Dull (6) 17 Shelter (6) 18 Opportuoity (6)

22 So be it (4)

Solution to yesterday's Countse Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Purr. 3 Collates (Percolates), 9 Demur, 10 Arrango, 11 Err, 13 Negligent, 14 Export, 16 Aspire, 18 Utilities, 20 Gin, 22 Avarice, 23 Optic, 25 Enduring, 26 Able. DOWN: 1 Padre, 2 Rim, 4 Orange, 5 Lorries, 6 Tinkering, 7 Sceptre, 8 Iron, 12 Reprimand, 14 Educate, 15 Rainier, 17 Pigeon, 19 Soon, 21 Niche, 24 Tub.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



IF YOU look at all four hands on this deal, it seems impossible to find a play that could persuade South's opponents to drop a trick in defence against Four Spades, a contract which, it seems certain, has four sure losers. Give up? Well read on:

East opened One Heart, South overcalled with One Spade, and West raised his partner to Two Hearts. North hid a firm Four Spades and, although Five Hearts might have proved relatively cheap. East judged well in deciding to defend. Against Four Spades, West started with the ace and another heart and declarer ruffed the third round.

Losing to A was inescapable and there were insufficient entries to eliminate the clubs, cash the top diamonds, and exit with a trump (hoping for the singleton A with only two diamonds). South found an interesting, and not at all obvious shot when he crossed to A - the key play - before leading & J. East won with his ace and stopped to think.

Why should declarer have crossed to dummy before leading trumps? Was it possible that he was missing + Q as well as A? If so, then West held the missing queen and it was now bare. In order to promote a trick for his partner's supposed queen. East led a fourth round of hearts. Gratefully, declarer discarded his losing diamond and was able to claim.

It really is difficult to hlame East for this débacle; it could only have happened to a thoughtful player I suppose that the only consolation is that you do not meet many Souths who would even think of playing A before touching trumps.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY

CONGRATULATIONS to the German player Michael Meyburg on becoming only the second person to win the Monte Carlo World Championship twice. The only other person who has accomplished this is Bill Robertie. Meyburg defeated Elliot Winslow of the US in the final Congratulations also to Richard White. house, a regular at London's Double Fives, who won . the Last Chance.

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To those not familiar with tournament formats, your entry fee (in the case of the world championships a not insignificant \$750) entitles you not only to play in the main championship but also in the Consolation once you have lost in the main event. Elimination from the Consolation puts you into the Last Chance - in the world championship there is also a second Consolation. Each tournament has shorter matches than the one before and less prize money but they are still very much worth winning.

Even after you have been knocked out of all the tournaments you can enter mini-jackpots. These are eightplayer tournaments that require a new entry fee where the winner takes all - jackpots at different entry fees are normally available. When you have finally bad enough tournament play you can play money games, either head to head or in chouettes. The availability of so much backgammon requires

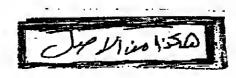
some discipline to make sure you get enough sleep ach night. Sadly, I know from personal experience that very short nights become the norm.

The backgammon circus now moves on to Dallas for the bi-annual World Cup where, in addition to the usual tournaments, there is also a World Chouette Championship. This is the first time that this has been attempted, and it will be interesting to see how well it goes. Matches in the World Cup are played as the best of five 11-point matches rather than the longer (up to 25 points) match format which is used at Monte Carlo. This is generally considered to be a fairer format as a single freak eight- or 16-point cube need no longer decide the outcome of an entire match.

For those interested in trying their hand at a tournament for the first time, there will be backgammon tournaments at the second Mind Sports Olympiad to be held at the Novotel Hotel, in Hammersmith, be held at the Novotei Hotei, in Francisco.

London, from 24-30 August. Entry fees are expected

For further details, send an SAE to Mind Sports Olympiad. PO box 13388, London NW3 2ZF



TRAVEL

Summer flights go for a song

In an unexpected fit of generosity, British Airways has announced a host of cut-price deals to tempt travellers. But, as Simon Calder explains, you'll have to be quick to take best advantage of BA's budget munificence

Friday afternoons. travel tends to be a sleepy corner of any newspaper, so I don't get to say that very often. But, at 5.30pm yesterday, news came through of air fares so absurdly cheap that this could either be the best weekend hever for travellers (if you bag a bargain) or the worst (if you fail to get

a cheap deal, or are a competitor). British Airways had a slow start to the summer. The blame has been heaped upon the World Cup, which by now seems to be beld responsible for as many calamities as El Niño. Whatever the cause, the effect is that BA is off-loading a vast number of seats - two million - at fares at an all-time low.

As our navigation charts show, almost all the best deals are within Europe. Ryanair and easyJet will say that most of the fares and destinations are targeted to cause maximum harm to BA's low-cost rivals. But whether you are after a lastminute August holiday, a short break in autumn or a string of business trips, this page will help you make the most of the aviation dogfight.

Q: When must I book? A: Between 9am on Saturday and midnight on Sunday.

A: If you have a credit or debit card,

Q: By phone?

Q: But last time there was a special deal, with ent-price Concorde seats, I couldn't get through! A: This time, there are about 1,000 times more seats available, so you

could be in luck. BA says it will have

lots of extra phone staff on duty. Q: And the Internet? A: BA has established a dedicated website for the offer at www.british-

Q: Call me old-fashioned, but I prefer to deal with humans. What about my travel agent?

airways.com/countdown

A: Good idea: these tickets are available through LATA travel agents (which means almost all of them). Most agents can access the airline's booking computer directly, so once you're in, you should be able to secure all the tickets you need. But because your agent stands to make a grand total of only £5.50 commission on a flight to Nice and back, so he or she may not be delighted to see you. And besides, few travel agents will be open on Sunday.

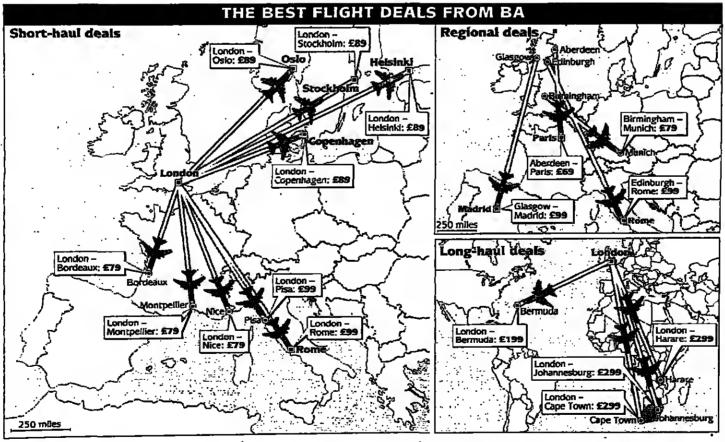
Q: So what's your advice? A: Try a British Airways Travel Shop. The airline's own travel agent has 24 branches around Britain, and some - in London, Manchester and Edinburgh - will be open on Sunday. They could be crowded, mind.

Q: Your queue-busting strategy? A: Get to the BA Travel Shop above Victoria Station in London shortly before it opens at 6am on Sunday. I'd be surprised if there's much of a quene. But you run the risk that the tickets you want may already have been snapped up by bulk-buying bargain hunters.

Q: Does that mean there's no limit on the number of flights any individual can book?



Only £99 away from Glasgow, Madrid is just one of the many destinations available in BA's summer flights giveaway



Brian Harris

A: Correct (well, I suppose two mil-

O: And can I book tickets on behalf of other people? A: Yes, whether or not you intend to

Q: How soon can I travel? A: Today, if you like.

travel with them.

Q: When do I need to be back by? A: All outbound travel must be completed by 30 November, but you needn't come home until a month after that - so this could be chance

to book your Christmas holiday.

Q: Are taxes included? A: Broadly, yes - the rules were changed at the start of this year to ensure that all pre-payable taxes are included in quoted air fares. But some countries impose additional taxes which can be paid only at the airport of departure.

Q: Does the deal apply to domestic

A: Yes, but the bargains aren't very special. KLM UK (0990 074074) has had a jolly good seat sale on domestic routes for some weeks, and £59 return between Scotland or Northern Ireland and Loodon seems to be the going rate.

WHERE THE **BARGAINS** AREN'T

BEWARE! HIDDEN among the long lists of fares are some for which you'd be foolish to pay the "sale" fare, unless you need to dodge the "Saturday night minimum stay" rule. These are the deals I wouldn't touch with a credit card.

London to Athens, £179; a much cheaper fare is available on easyJet for £141.70. London to Istanbul, £179; charters, or scheduled flights on Turkish Airlines or Istanbul Airlines, should be cheaper

London to Dubai, £259; at this time of year, discount agents should be able to offer comparable fares with fewer

Q: These offers always have loads of restrictions, weekend surcharges etc. What's the catch? A: One word - availability. If you fancy flying out from Glasgow on a Friday afternoon, via Heathrow and to Madrid, you'll probably be out of luck. But wet Wednesdays in November should be wide open. Be flexible with dates and destinations.

Q: If I cancel, can I get a refund? A: No. You must pay in full at the time of booking, and no refunds are

Q: And I suppose changing reservation dates or times is ont of the

A: Correct. But bear in mind that some of these fares are so ridiculously low that it may be worth taking a punt just in case.

Q: Any special one-way fares? A: No, but these deals are way below normal BA one-way prices. So buy a return, and throw away the

O: Can I fly to one destination and back from another (eg out to Stockholm and back from Oslo)? A: No; these so-called "open jaw" arrangements aren't permitted.

Q: Will BA's rivals respond with similar deals?

A: The airline kept the offer tightly under wraps until last night, so it is unlikely that other airlines can react with cheap fares this weekend. But if BA soaks up much of the demand for the next few months, other carriers could find themselves having to dump capacity at low fares.

Q: Why aren't there cheap flights to America, Asia or Australia? A: Partly because bookings are strong, so BA doesn't need to dump seats, and also because fares to many of these places are entertainingly low already; expect £199 returns to New York by September, £499 to Sydney in November.

Q: So where will you going with this deal? A: No idea - I've been far too busv writing this article to decide.

PLASTIC BERTRAND, where are you. We need a re-make of your greatest (and only) hit. The Belgian crooner's aviation anthem "Ca Plane Pour Moi" is inappropriate for Brussels-bound travellers on Virgin Express.

Last weekend hundreds of pussengers with firm bookings on Richard Branson's European airline were refused seats aboard flights between London and the Belgian capital. For a moment in the checkin queue at Heathrow last Saturday morning, I thought I was about to get an accelerated journey. "We have a flight leaving in 15 minutes. Would

you like to take it?" But this turned out to be a case of Ca Plone Pas Toi. The official was actually talking to the lady next to me. Virgin Express staff were combing the queue identifying passengers planning to connect at the Relgan capital to other destinations, and whisking them away to the first available plane. But the official explained. If you're only travelling to Brussels, you won't be allowed to check in for the 8.30am flight. We'll give you a ticket for a Eurostar train which will get you to Brussels at foor this afternoon."

The company that calls itself "Europe's most innovative airline" was proposing the innovation of making air passengers travel by bus to Waterloo, and by rail from there. The reason, says the company, is a shortage of capacity. Virgin Express has expanded

rapidly this summer, and now offers 16 flights a day from London to Brussels. The trouble seems to be that the airline bas taken rather too many bookings for the available seats. According to Virgin Express, the problem was caused by an elderly Lockheed TriStar aircraft that the airline had chartered in but had proved unreliable. Instead, smaller planes were being used, so there simply weren't enough seats to go round.

The flight I was booked on was to be operated by a small propeller plane, the Fokker 50, which has about one-sixth the capacity of a TriStar. (Planespotters like me are rather bemused about this turn of aeronautical events, since Virgin Express prides itself on a fleet comprising exclusively nice new Boeing 737s.)

Whatever the airline's problems with worky planes, from the paying



SIMON **CALDER**

After an hour or so, the departure gate got even livelier when a Boeingload of passengers turned up for a different flight

punter's point of view this was a straight case of overbooking: the flight was leaving but without a lot of people who had paid a lot of money to travel on it - and to reach the airport at an unearthly hour Leans Hayter, who was also

bome in Northampton at 4am. She was facing the prospect of getting to her destination 10 bours late. "When I arrived at 6am, I saw people thronging about and thought there must be trouble," she told me. "I'm surprised this can happen on Virgin."

When airlines overbook, they pay compensation. I asked the official what my entitlement was under European Union rules; the EU sets down minimum payments for passengers delayed due to overbooking. "We're a non-lata carrier lie not a member of the International Air Transport Association]," he said, "So we're not

bound by those rules." Instead of cash, passengers were handed a letter from Jim Swigart, president of Virgin Express, setting out the compensation for what he called "your inconvenience as well as the additional expenses or time lost that you might bave incurred".

The letter promised a free flight to Brussels and back - except the flight isn't free, because passengers have to pay £25 in tax for the privilege, and the offer is hedged with restrictions, such as having to refused boarding, had left her book at least a week in advance, and

travel within the next four months. Passengers who decided instead to abandon their journey were denied even this compensation instead, Virgin Express offered merely a refund of the money you paid. To add insult to inconvenience, there were oo instant refunds, so travellers who may have paid for their tickets weeks in advance are having to wait still longer to get the money back. Faced with the prospect of spending most of the day getting to

6.50am flight on Sunday. Next morning I received a boarding card rather than a rebuff, and even got as far as the departure gate. But because of what was described as "staff sbortage", the flight was delayed first by an bour, then indefinitely.

Brussels, I rebooked instead on the

After an bour or so, the departure gate got even livelier when an entire 757-load of passengers and crew turned up expecting to board a BA flight to Copenhagen; Virgin Express had outstayed its welcome at the gate.

The delay extended to the point where the passengers would not reach central Brussels until tunch time. By this time my intended long

weekend in Belgium was turning into a day trip. So I abandoned the trip, musing that the slogan of Virgin Express ("Your right to fly for less") could usefully be amended by deleting the word "for".

ANOTHER SLOGAN that caused a kerfuffle: "The next time you find yourself in one of our departure lounges about to board one of our flights, better make it an espresso".

British Airways used this line to publicise its Shuttle flights. But a passenger complained that the ad was inaccurate because be found flights between Manchester and London were frequently delayed or cancelled. The Advertising Standards Authority rejected the complaint, but in the process BA revealed its punctuality record: one in eight flights fails to depart within 15 minutes of the scheduled departure time - even poorer than trouble-prone Virgin Trains.

By the way, here is the sympathetic response you can expect on telling a pal that you've been bumped from a Virgin Express plane: "Gosh, that sounds uncomfortable," said my friend Sue. "I bope not from too great a height."

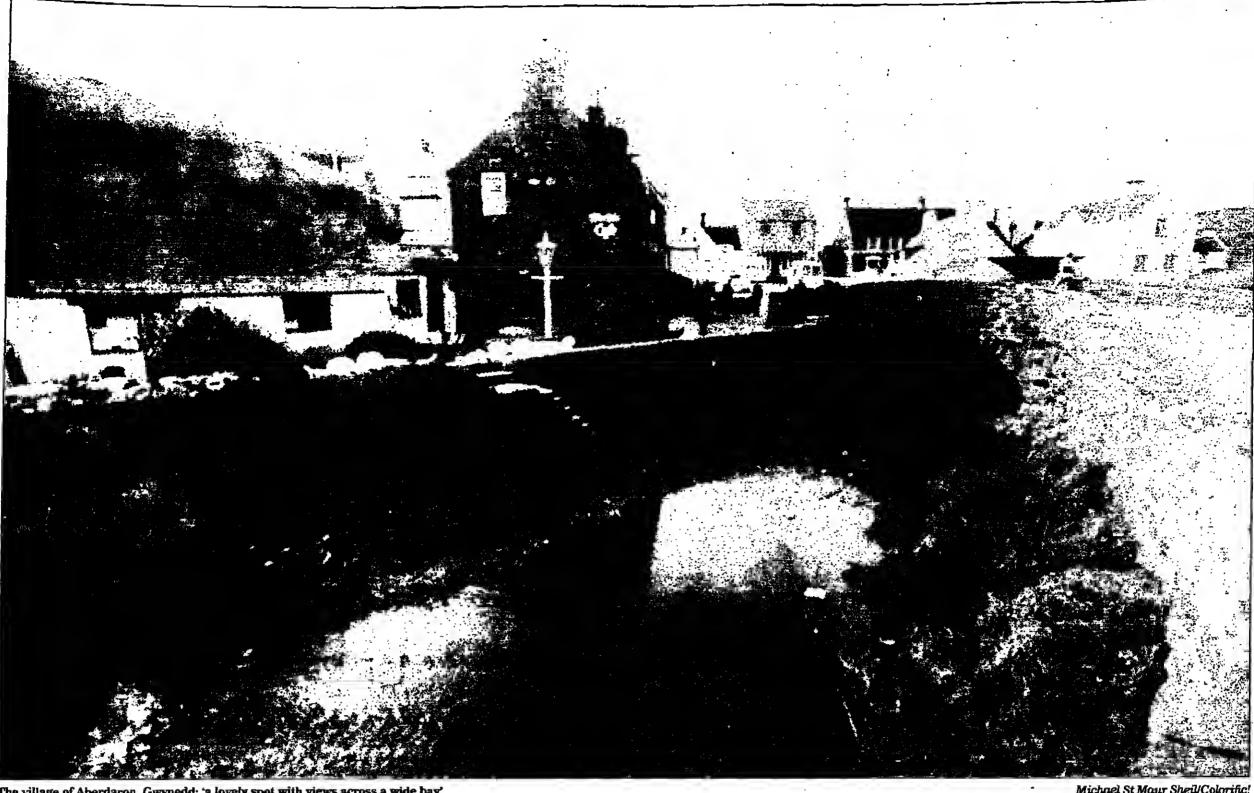
THE LONG-HAUL branch of the Virgin empire is rather more generous when offloading passengers. Suzy Dietrich of London checked in at Heathrow for her Virgin Atlantic flight to Johannesburg. "Would you mind flying BA instead?", she was asked. She didn't - particularly when told the only inconvenience was a 45minute delay, and the reward was a free flight to South Africa and back.

"YOU REFER to passengers being 'strapped into an aircraft seat' ", writes John S Smith of Hoverspeed. whose flagship (or is it a flagplane?) I described last week.

"Whilst the bovercraft cabin is more akin to an airtine than a ferry, we certainly do not strap passengers into their seats. Although passengers remain seated during the 35-minute crossing, they are certainly not restrained from moving."

Mr Smith also rejects my suggestion that the abolition of dutyfree, which comes into effect on 1 July next year, could threaten the future of the craft. "We plan to refurbish them next year, and to operate the hovercraft well into the next Millennium continuing the tradition of the fastest Channel crossings."





Michael St Maur Sheil/Colorific

'You should have been here last week' is the usual line about holidays in Britain. But, after seven wet days on the Lleyn Peninsula, Mick Webb rather wishes he'd been there this week instead

A week is a long time in Wales

one arm grasping a struggling child and the other flailing wildly, while the heavy seas

crashed menacingly below us. There was just time enough to ponder the folly of involving the whole family in hearty adventures before I miraculously found a

foothold on the slippery rock. The vertiginous scramble in search of St Mary's Well was just part of a week of outdoor fun on the Lleyn Peninsular on the very western edge of North Wales.

The plan was to forget computergames, TV and packaged entertainment and drag our children isix of them from two families, plus a dog and a German exchange student) kicking and screaming into the fresh air.

How the week panned out:

Sunday 26 July Arrive in Aberdaron after long drive through driving rain. Booked into a farm campsite on high windswept field. "You're a braver man than me."

the farmer observes helpfully. After battling like sailors in a round-the-world yacht race, we vanquish the elements and three tents prove?" we ask. were erected. Good team-building exercise, we reckon.

pletely lost, I cover what a lovely spot this is with tottered on the views across a wide bay, and only a narrow ledge, gentle stroll away from the village of Aberdaron with its two stores, pub, excellent bakery, tea-shop, and small hotel that was still offering "lastminute vacancies".

Other holidaymakers are not much in evidence, which means the curving beach was mostly empty. This is sea for battling with, rather than bathing in, but there are plenty of other distractions for all ages: falling off a windsurfer, building variations on sandcastles - the children make a dragon out of sand; and collecting pebbles, seaweed and yukky things - the younger ones find two dead dogfish and an equally

Tuesday

Lifting the tent flap reveals ... nothing, apart from a very low, very wet cloud, that appears to have settled in for the duration. We pack picnic and set out on cliff-top walk to St Mary's Well (the Ordnance Survey map shows several wells, and an

equal number of sheep-dips). We meet a sheep-farmer using a quad bike to shepl; rd his flock, most which have nasty coughs. "Do you think the weather'll im-

"Oh, yes," he says. "Next year." This is supposed to be a splendid ups pretend but the real reason is bowled over by the pink tinge that

choughs, and the visibility is too poor to see if there are any seals down on

the rocks. Blanche (10 years old) does spot a yellow-hammer which, just as the bird-book says, sings "a-little-bit-ofhread-and-no-cheese". Well, it does if you know that's what it's supposed to be singing. Fortunately our picnic is composed of lots of very good large hread rolls and loads of cheese. Unfortunately, we have to eat standing

up as the grass is saturated. Silas (fivel has such wet trousers he can't walk, but we carry him and press on to St Mary's Well. It's not easy to find we heard later of someone who's been looking for it on and off for 50 years. But then you doo't expect to find a well halfway up a cliff, which is where it is. Helen (13) thinks the lack of signposting is deliberate, as

it's so dangerous getting 'here. After my narrow escape from disaster, we fill a bottle with the water "the sweetest in Wales" (according to a man in the pub at Aberdaron), though by the time we get it back to the tent it had begun to pong. Some things just don't travel, do they?

Wednesday Weather no better Expedition to buy wellies and socks to nearest town: Abersoch. That's what the grown-

re can get in Aberdal there provides sweet little candystriped bags to conceal your winebottle, ("just in case you meet the vicar") and perhaps that is what dou-

bles the price. Abersoch is a good place to buy booze and wellies of all colours. It's a bustling little boliday port full of yachting-types in very clean clothes

The plan was to forget packaged entertainment and drag our children kicking and screaming into the fresh air

and unlikely tans. We linger for a while, feeling very unwashed, having coffee and boping for a sighting of Posh Spice and David Beckham, who are rumoured to have bought a holiday house here. At the end of the day, the sun appears in its full glory and we have a barbecue at the end of the beach. Faith (six) is

We all are. We spend ages throwing the coloured peobles at a plastic bottle, bank up the bonfire, sing songs and only Silas (five) is worried as he thinks our car will be locked in the car-park

More rain. Outlook worse. Confined to tents, one of which (mine) has almost collapsed, as a pole has broken Running, or rather sitting-down, repairs are effected. The children don't seem hothered by the weather - the older ones set up a casino in ooe tent, the others play for hours in the cars and are joined by other small damp waifs from around the camp-site. One of their fathers comes and warns his children that cars (his one anyway) are not for playing in!

The domestic chores seem to stretch out to fill the time allotted. We teach Thomas (16) from Germany how to wash up ("we have machines for this at home"). Thomas puts up good-naturedly with much teasing about his archetypal German habits - he is better acquainted with the campsite shower (20p in the slot for hot water) than all the rest of us put together. He also has a teutonic capacity for beer, wine, coffee and food, often all at the same time.

rice/pasta/potatoes, described as "strange, stewy contraptions" (Alec. 10) and "all horrible except

for breakfast" (Silas, 5). I'm not sure that the local cuisine is a lot better, though the Bramley apple cake at the Y Gegin Fawr teabouse is ace, and there's a nice cheese called Bardsey Chieftain (named after an island that's inhabited not by people, but by the spirits of 20,000 saints, though we couldn't afford the £100 boat fare to

verify this).

No improvement in the weather. Adults becoming rather moody and, in one case, almost clinically

We start drinking at hunch-time rather than in the evening. The children, on the other hand seem perfectly sanguine, and join wholebeartedly in the composition of a song about our holiday with the following immortal chorus:

Oh how we love Aberdaron, Oh what a beautiful bay The spirits of Bardsey are calling. A pity the skies are so grey

In the afternoon a trip is organised Whistling Sands, a beautiful bay owned by the National Trust where Our main meals all comprise a dip in the cold water revives flagging called Graham achieves immediate hero-status with our children for his prowess in catching crabs.

Back at the camp, a man and his family arrive with a trailer filled with kites. He's a professional kite-maker and soon the sky is humming with strange flying lilos.

Adults repair to the pub and return at midnight. Thomás the German repairs to another pub and returns with various new acquain-

An ironic but brief burst of sunshine accompanies the taking down and packing-up. We drive home past the rather more conventional boliday sites we might have visited: the stately home at Plas yn Rhiw; a Butlin's holiday camp with dayrates for visitors; the Blaenau Ffestiniog railway, and the extraordinary Italianate village of Portmeirion. I'd like to have stopped off there but by oow it is pouring with

rain again. Overall, amazingly enough. everyone seems to have enjoyed the experience. Clarrie (15) says she wasn't at all jealous of her friends who were clubbing in Minorca, and Alec (10) summed it up as "cool".

It certainly was. And wet. And cheap - £4 per family per night for

St. Catherine's Monastery & Petra

visiting St. Catherine's Monastery and the Rose Red City of Petra

he convenient location of the 4-star Coral Hilton Hotel in Neweiba makes it possible to combine the fascinating siles of St Catherine's Monastery with the rase red city of Petra. The journey is further made possible by the direct hights from London Catwack to Sharm el-Sheikh and the regular ferry services to

Our journey commences with a four-night stay at the Coral Hillian Resort at Nuweiha. This will be our base both for relaxation on the Red Sea coast to enjoy the winter sunshine and our visits to St Catherine's Monastery and the Coloured Canyon, On Day 5 transfor by hydrofoil to Agaba and travel morth by road to Petra and the Inter-Continental for the next three During the stay at Petra we will visit various areas of

thesite tentrance fee not included and make optional visits to Little Petra and Wadi Rum, the location of David Lean's film Lawrence of Arabia', On Day Surive to Agaha for the regular passenger service to Sharm el-Sheikh and the return flight to Landon Gatwick.

The Petra Inter-Continental Hotel This 4-star hotel is situated close to Petra. The 149



rooms each has private facilities, air-con-

include two restaurants, lounge, terrace!

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The world's safest airlines

THE RAIN MAN was wrong: the world's best air safety record does not belong to Qantas, even though the Australian airline has never suffered a passenger fatality. An American carrier, Southwest, also boasts a

fatality-free record, and since it started up in 1971 has flown 6 million flights – against a mere million by Qantas.

The Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit issued an uodate at 3pm yesterday:

A bomb exploded at the US Embassy on 7 August. We are not aware of any British casualties, nor of any specific threat to UK interests in

GREEN CHANNEL The latest air accident free flights. Finnair, Sabena

figures from the US Department of Transportation, which cover aviation since 1970, reveal many other scheduled airlines that have achieved a "fatal event rate" of zero.

The best performance after Southwest - is SAS. The Scandinavian airline has flown 5.4m journeys without a fatality. Ansett of Australia has managed 2.5m accident-

North America by Canadian Airlines and America West. The best performance from a scheduled British

of Belgium and Aer Lingus

have all beateo the million

barrier, They are joined in

airline is Air UK, which has operated 800,000 flights safely since 1970. Virgin Atlantic also scores a zero, but on only 50,000 flights since it began in 1984. The new low-cost

carriers Debooair, easyJet and Go also have flawless records, though neither they nor any charter airline appear in the DoT figures. Britannia Airways, the UK's biggest charter carrier, says it has operated 2 million flights since 1970 without a fatal accident, which puts it among the world's safest airlines. TACA of El Salvador, Air

Jamaica and Kenya Airways also get a zero rating.

RED CHANNEL: TANZANIA

Highway robberies, usually targetting stationary vehicles, have been reported at road junctions. These attacks may be accompanied by personal violence. Exercise caution when in

vehicles, keeping doors

locked and windows shut.

Visitors should be aware of

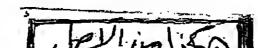
of armed banditry in and around the Northern National Parks, Such incidents affect both recognised tour operators and independent travellers.

occasional random incidents

Food or drink should not be accepted from strangers as it may be drugged.

A number of violent muggings of foreign tourists have recently taken place on Zanzibar. Visitors should avoid deserted beaches and exercise extreme caution in Stone Town after dark.

Visitors and residents should register with the British High Commission.



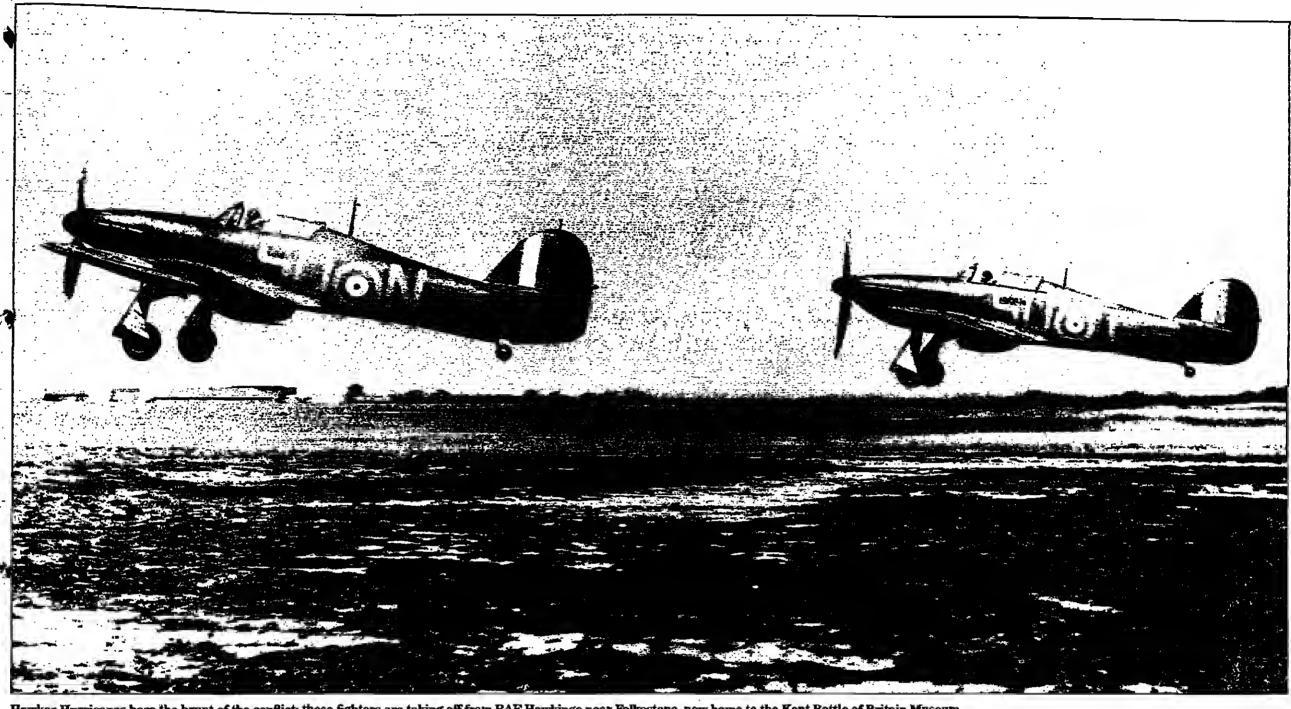
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Where the few live on

The Battle of Britain is still celebrated in museums across the South-east. By Guy de la Bédoyère



Hawker Hurricanes bore the brunt of the conflict; these fighters are taking off from RAF Hawkinge near Folkestone, now home to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum

IS about this time of year that minds cast back to the summer of 1940. The Battle lasted from 10 July to 31 Ocn mooern myth, it even be legend during the war itself. The British line has always been that successful resistance to German bombing caused Hitler to abandon his line has always been that they were

changing their minds anyway. Either way, the battle is replayed in endless airshows around the country. Today there are more airworthy Spitfires than there have been for 40 years, though in fact only one of these saw service during the battle. (There are very few Hurricanes; they bore the brunt of the conflict.) It is a strange comment on our own time that so much effort goes into keeping these planes going, but there is simply no more magnificent sight or sound in the world of aviation.

The real battle now exists only in photographs and film. Unless, of course, you have time to visit some of the eccentric and memorable museums in south-eastern England. . um at nearby Hawkinge - perched RAF Manston, near Ramsgate,

was in the front line. In August 1940 it was constantly attacked. The worst day was the 24th, when 20 Ger-

man bombers did so much damage, despite attempts by 264 Squadron's Defiants to beat them off, that the field was practically out out of action. The old RAF station is now Kent

International Airport. On the north and Spittire Memorial Building. The building is essentially two large rooms, with the Hurricane II

in the eastern half and the Spitfire plans to invade Britain. The German XVI in the west. Scattered around are relics dug from battle crash sites. including a pair of Hurricane en-gines. Pilot Officer KC Campbell's engine is in astonishing condition More vivid is the wrecked Rolls-

Royce Merlin III from Sgt. Franciszek Jan Kozlowski's Hurricane I of 501 Squadron. He was shot down on 18 August 1940 hut baled out and survived, only to be killed three years later over France. The pulverised front balf of Kozlowski's engine, with pistons and rods bent like plastic, testifies to the force of hitting the ground at 400mph-plus. That kind of crash often led to the engine reaching a depth of 18ft or more.

All of which makes the contents of the Kent Battle of Britain Museon the hills above Folkestone and the Channel Timnel entrance - utterly astonishing. Hawkinge was also in the front line, but is little changed.

AIRCRAFT MUSEUMS

THE ONLY surviving Battle of is a Mark II, serial number P7350, built at Castle Bromwich in Lord Nuffield's factory. It makes fairly regular appearances in the summer but lives at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, where there is a

RAF MANSTON Museum (01843-823351, ext 6219) is open daily all year round, 10am-4pm, staying open till 5pm between May and September. To get there take the A253 from Canterbury to B2048 at Minster and, shortly afterwards, east on the B2190.

visitors' centre (01526-344041).

Ramsgate, turning north on the

with the grassy airfield and crum-bling RAF buildings, it is easy to imagine what it was like, waiting bour after hour in the sun to be scrambled for a dog fight. With combat lasting a few shocking seconds

of glaring noise and light, terror and

KENT BATTLE of Britain 893140) is open from Easter until the end of October, closing at 5pm (4pm in October). Admission: adults 23, senior citizens £2.50, children £1.50. It is accessible most easily from the A260 (off the A2 between Canterbury and Dover).

THE SHOREHAM AirCraft Museum is in Shoreham High Street, signposted from the A225 between Eynsford and Otford (01959-524416). If coming from farther afield, leave the M25 at junction 3 and take the A20 1.5 miles east to Farningham and then join the A225. Open

Up bere on a quiet summer's day, mayhem, few pilots were unshaken and many lost friends daily.

The museum, housed in and around several wartime buildings has myriad engines, instruments and controls. At first it looks like unlimited quantities of scrap, but a phenomenal amount of effort has gone

Sundays only, from May to Admission £1; children and students free.

THERE IS also the Brenzett Aeronautical Museum in Ivychurch Road, Brenzett, near New Rompey on the A2070 (01233-627911). Apart from fragments of Battle of Britain planes there are other pieces such as experimental versions of the Dam Buster bombs. Open Sundays and Bank Holidays, 11am to 5.30pm, from Easter to 31 October, and Wednesday to Friday (afternoons only) from July to September

into this place. Efforts have been made to identify every aeroplane involved, and there are photographs and biographies of many pilots.

One of the most famous books about the Battle is Richard Hillary's The Last Enemy (1942, and frequently reprinted). Hillary was shot

about that extraordinary summer during the long process of recovery. Two of Hillary's friends in 603

down and severely burned on 3

September 1940 and wrote his book

Squadron were Colin Pinckney and down on 29 August. His Spittire crashed in Dymchurch and the control column is on display at Hawkinge. So, too, are fragments of Peter Pease's Spitfire, which was shot down on 15 September 1940 (Battle of Britain Day). Pease was killed: Pinckney survived, but died later in the war.

It is remarkable to see fragments of Spitfires from Hillary's pages. But they also serve as illustrations of a controversial activity. Many of these planes were excavated 20 years ago. It is now illegal to dig up any military aeroplane without MoD consent.

Where the pilot is thought still to be incarcerated this is always denied, though this raises interesting disagreements with relatives who want proper graves.

Having said that, I still didn't feel very much at ease. This is a private collection, as is made plain to visitors. No photography or even writ-ten recording is allowed, and there are no guidebooks for sale.

It is a pity because this is a part of history that belongs to us all.

Closer to London - and in many ways the most intimate monument to the battle - is Shoreham Aircraft Museum. This is also privately owned and is far smaller than Hawkinge, but is superbly presenta first-class aviation artist.

Here the main exhibit is the magnificent Merlin engine from Sgt. John Lansdell's Hurricane of 607 Squadron. Lansdell had flown from Tangmere, only to be shot down and killed in the afternoon of 17 September 1940.

There are many other items, including a blackboard from a Biggin Hill pub signed by pilots during the war. There are several colossal Jumo 211 engines from bombers and also the vast BMW radial motor from a Focke-Wulfe FW190.

If you go for a Second World War aviation trail round Kent, try to pass through Kingsnorth, just south of Ashford. Here I found a Pratt and Whitney twin-row Wasp radial motor which came from an American B24 Liberator ditched in the Channel. Now it decorstes a roadside scrap

dealer's display.
It is a reminder that, whoever won the Battle of Britain, the air war had a long way to run and many people on both sides were to die as a

A dream of a train journey

"JIGGETY-JOG, jiggety-jog, jiggety-jog". That's how my mother used to describe the noise of trains as they went along. But of course they don't make that sound now - unless, of course, you take a sleeper, when they make every sound in the book throughout the night.

"I'm taking the sleeper... Isn't this the only way left to travel on a train, that's still glamorous? The days when you dressed up to go on a train, and put on your best suit and hat and gloves: the days when you craned out of the window, let down by a leather strap, to see the first glimpse of the sea, may be over. But going by sleeper still holds great romance.

Rail companies have tried to kill off the sleeper, but it's still the best way to travel, far more you get the feeling of distance (no duvets here) and headed by

027824

Yearning after the lost romance of travel? Take the sleeper to Scotland and rediscover the glamour of the train. By Virginia Ironside

all night - that you really are travelling from A to B. Going by sleeper is a blissfully childlike experience. The size of the cabin is like a Wendy house; everything is tiny. There's a lovely little wooden ladder that hangs from brass hooks on the wall, that you use to climb into the upper bunk, which is so narrow that there's no room for anything but the most straightforward hankypanky. But who wants hankypanky, anyway, when they're travelling by sleeper?

The beds are narrow enough to fit only the slimmest of bodies, lined in crisp, clean sheets

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The Snoozing Scotsman: the West Highland Sleeper

proper feather pillows in cotton covers - none of your floral nylon slips covering lumps of

There is a lovely little washbasin, which you have to think about before using because it doubles up as a surface.

You're given a washbag full of treats: shaving-cream, a tiny tube of toothpaste, a toothbrush, a flannel, a little cloth to clean your shoes and a paper caroet to stand on. On your bed, if you're travelling first class, is a tiny book for you to read (mine was Alan Bennett's The

Clothes They Stood Up In) and just by your head as you lie down is a little elasticated rack in which to keep your bottle of water (provided), your book

As you travel through the night you wake up – but not unpleasantly. You wake to hear the shunting of the trains as one part dislodges from the other At Glasgow you can open your blind and watch the early birds clambering aboard. There is the feeling that sacks of post are being bauled into the guard's compartment. Everyone is

and your specs.

working away while you, in your nightdress, just sleep, and occasionally get up and observe, all to the jiggety-jog of the train, which is as relaxing as being, once again, in your mother's womb.

In the morning, breakfast is served by a splendid sleeper attendant in a red coat with brass buttons, who gives you oatcakes, corn flakes, butter, a tiny pot of jam, tea or coffee. a croissant, and that mysterious circle of processed cheese, presumably for the Germans or Dutch. Or you can wander down to the restaurant where you can have more choice and where, the night before, you could have whiled away the hours eating and drinking.

On the way back, we waited at a tiny station in Scotland. As the train came in, the door opened and our sleeper attendant appeared. "Miss Ironside. I presume," he said as he came out on to the platform, took our suitcases and led us to our

tiny cabin. And we looked forward to another luxurious night, back to London Jiggety-jog, jiggetyjog, through the blackness,

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW

The Independent, 8 August 1998

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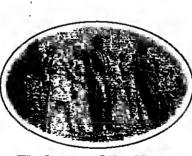
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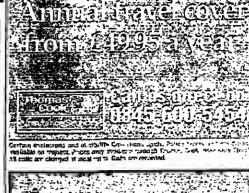
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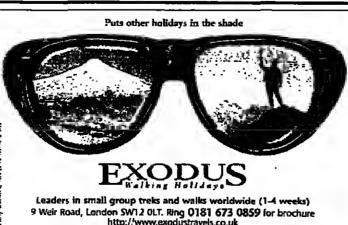
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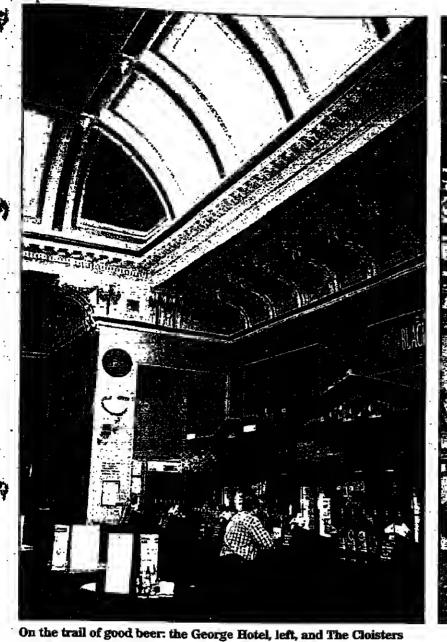
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Distilling the flavour of the Fringe

Edinburgh pubs are rightly famed for the quality of their beer, the stupendous quantity consumed, and their imaginative opening hours. As the Festival week cranks up, Michael Jackson offers the definitive pub guide to a city where banks have become bars

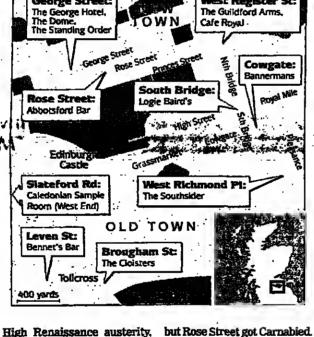
the Protestant clergy and cautious bankers of Scotland's capital ever had any reservations about the roistering during Edinburgh Festival week, they had better swallow those doubts. With the Fringe already raised, and the official festival starting next weekend, some of the city's finest pints are being sunk in two former banks. and a past parsonage. Guests at the George Motel

Glosgow

one of the festival's social centres, need only cross the road. The hotel's Corinthian portico faces the even grander example at the Dome (14 George Street). Can there be a more spectacular pub, bar or grill-room in the whole of Britain than this, in the former national headquarters of the Commercial Bank of Scotland? With its reliefs of Prudence, Learning, Agriculture, Mechanical Engineering and Enterprise this 1840s temple to Scottishness demands to be celebrated with the fermented or distilled product of Borders barley. Seeing and being seen under its 100-ft glass dome are Edinburgh's movers and shakers, some of whom prefer margaritas or Chilean chardonnays, but others cleaving to Deuchar's aromatic, dry, almost gin-like, India Pale Ale. This the smartest beer in the resurgent capital, enjoying a chic unmatched by local brews in any other British city.

Deuchar's, a name revived by the local Caledonian Brewery, recalls the days when Edinburgh's beers were 80 internationally famous as to keep its banks liquid. Even today. Scottish ale's fame lingers in Belgium, France and Italy and is growing in the

United States. Here is Deuchar's again, in the middle of the same stately thoroughfare, at the former Bank of Scotland, a tower of



There is still, though, the 1902 Abbotsford Bar (3 Rose Street),

with its Jacobean interior, the

island bar in mahogany and the

moulded ceiling recently

touched up in pale green and

gold. Here I first toasted a

posher pal confident enough to

arrive capped and gowned from

his graduation. In those days,

shilling ale and guest beers may include Lia Fail ("Stone of Des-

ale from the new Inversimond

but culture requires that this be

done among the work of great

artists and craftsmen. In this,

Edinburgh excels. First-time

visitors should not miss the

West Register Street), with

Festivals suggest drinking,

brewery, in Perth.

High Renaissance austerity. built in the 1870s. This bank's porches are lonic, its interior pillars of Peterhead granite, its lavish cornices unattainably lofty. The establishment is now called The Standing Order (62 George Street). Its walls are softened with bookshelves, and it looks more like a particularly grand public library than a pub, but its stock-in-trade is a dozen caskconditioned ales. Just the place for a literary gathering. I cosseted a drily malty, leafy Wild Cat, from Tomintoul, and had a quiet read. Why were the two young women at the next table drinking Irn Bru? Had hang-

overs, I suppose. The aloof brow that is George Street has enough banks to turn it into an alcoholic waterfall, at which point it could no longer look down on secondhand Rose Street. In my youth I weekly and hopelessly tried to have a half in every pub along the hidden shame of this alley,

Beers at the moment include Caledonian's nutty, lemonaway, the 1890s Guildford Arms (I West Register Street) has friezes, screens and a minstrels' gailery, and, from 13 to 22 August, its own festival of folk music. This pub is one of my great favourites, especially for beers from Harviestoun. Last time I called, they had the aptly named Bitter and Twisted; let's hope stocks last.

Across Princes Street and the North Bridge, the Southsider (3 West Richmond Street, near Surgeon's Hall) is a university pub, opened in the Seventies, with a well kept selection of Maclay's malty-fruity ales. These are from Alloa, a city that was once a brewing rival to Edinburgh, and they can be hard to find in the capital.

Where South Bridge meets High Street, a Royal Bank, built in magnificently classical style, but as recently as the Twenties, was six or seven years ago converted into a bar and small botel. This has recently been refurbished and renamed Logie Baird's (1-3 South Bridge, corner of Royal Mile). The manager, Stewart Foulis, is from the Orkneys, and we drank Bass; today the features an unusually full Broughton brewery provides a selection of assertive Orcadian beers and whiskies. The hotel's firm, dry, hoppy house 70rooms are named after Scottish inventors, including Alexander tiny"), a malty textured, dark Graham Bell and James Watt.

In the Old Town, between the castle and the Queen's Hall, the stone vaults of Bannermans (212 Cowgate, between Grassmarket and The Pleasance) are a Fringe favourite, with jazz and blues on Sunday evenings. Look out for the

1860s Café Royal (nearby, at 17 flowery Fraoch Heather Ale. South and west, between Doulton-tiled murals of British The Meadows and Tolleross The Cloisters is a newish pub in inventors in the Circle Bar and

stained-glass depictions of the 1870s Gothic former parsonage of St Michael and All sportsmen in the Oyster Bar. Saints (26 Brougham Street), In this cosy spot I greatly enjoyed grassy Festival Ale. A few doors a new beer, a clean, dry, summery, refreshing India Pale Ale called St Leonard's. This was launched in January by Gordon Taylor, a mechanical engineer who worked in the now-defunct Monktonhall colliery, in the Lothians. On becoming jobless, Taylor established a U-Brew

Centre (one of those laundromat-looking places where members of the public can make their own beer). He now also uses the equipment to brew for pubs, in quarter-barrel batches.

Not far from The Cloisters. in theatre country, Bennet's Bar (8 Leven Street), in 1890s "Jacobethan", is an Edinburgh classic: a narrow, arcade-like pub, with tiling, mirrors and "Glasgow-style" stained glass

advertising long-gone brewers. More than 100 single malts here, and the ubiquitous Caledonian IPA.

the Caledonian Sample Room (58 Angle Park Terrace, toward Slateford Road) showcases the beers of the eponymous brewery. The redpainted tongue-and-groove of the walls reflects the agricultural-industrial style of the

nearby Victorian brewery itself. There is a changing selection of five or six beers from Caledonian, along with products from other small breweries.

Just beyond the West End, An impressive 20 handpumps can be seen in action after big games at Tynecastle or Murrayfield. Who needs a summer festival to sharpen the thirst, when all winter you can have 22 or 30 men kicking an inflated bladder?



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The Caledonian Sample Room showcases the beers of the eponymous brewery

Michael Jackson

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The galaxy of specks east of Stockholm are

hopping. By Cathy Packe

the perfect

venue for island

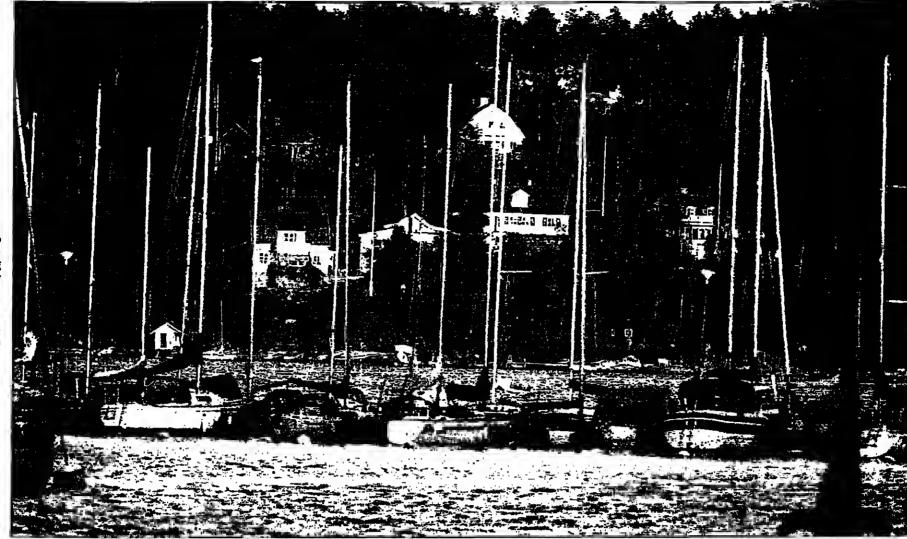
t a time wheo El Niño was still a babe-inarms, before growing up to be the unruly child currently terrorising the planet, an enterprising British tour operator seized upon the rising temperatures to nominate the Baltic Sea as the "new Mediterranean".

Nonsense, of course; even in August the Baltic, with its low salinity: is no match for, say, the Aegean. But as a veoue for island-hopping, the Stockholm archipelago can outdo Greece any day - oot least because of the absurd British Airways deal this weekend (£89 return to Stokholm if you book by midnight tomorrow), and in the longer term good fares on Ryanair and SAS.

Those who have been to the Swedish capital but no further may he perplexed about the notion of the Stockholm archipelago; the city itself is huilt on 14 islands, at the point where the freshwater Lake Malaren meets the Baltic Sea. But the city is a launch pad for a marine galaxy of islands, 24,000 of them, splattered across the water for 40 miles in the direction of Finland.

Most are uninhabited, and those that do have a permanent population find it fluctuates wildly, as the holiday-makers arrive in force at the beginning of the summer and head for home again as the weather cools down and the nights begin to draw in. The archipelago is to the residents of Stockholm what Long Island is to New Yorkers: a place in which to avoid the heat of the city in the height of summer, and where they can have a change from the routine through the maze of islands to the

of the rest of the year. You do not have to sail your own boat out to the archipelago, but an interest in sailing is useful if you want to find much to do there. The Royal Swedish Yacht Club has had its headquarters on Sandon (which means, accurately, "sand island") for 100 years,



If you can't stand the heat of summer in the city, escape to the Baltic - which optimists are dubbing 'the new Mediterraneau'

Patrick Ward/Colorific!

Islands in the stream

and it is still the main centre for the sailing community. In the past, being close to the point where Swedish waters merge into Finnish, the small harbour of Sandhamn was an important customs point and quarantine centre. Since the 1600s, it has been one of the

Most of the summer activity in the archipelago is centred round Sandhamm. The houses around the harbour are small and close together, with little alleyways between them. On the quayside is an inn, the Sandhamn's Vardshus, which has been catering for

visitors to the island since 1672. A few yards away is a small supermarket that stays open throughout the year; a sign stuck on the door of another indicates that it operates only during the warmer months. About 100 people live on the island all year round, with a large influx of tourists for two months in the summer.

A walk around the island takes almost no time at all, and it is worth striking out along the coast, or through the pine forests, where you feel beyond the reach of oormal life. The sands are usually deserted, and all you hear are the birds and the sound of the waves on the shore.

- the same latitude as Orkney means that if you are going to go island-hopping it is probably better to consult the timetables to make sure a hrisk-ish pace can be maintained. It is rarely hot enough, except in the height of a good summer, to laze around at an outdoor café all

day hoping a boat might arrive. There are three amazingly complicated timetables, which I think Swedish oot heing a language in which I excel) cover the oorthern, central and southern parts of the archipelago. Since most of the names will be unfamiliar, it is almost

The cool climate this far north impossible to work out where to go hut, as this is Scandinavia, the service is well organised, and it is easy to get advice in English.

Whether you decide to jump on a boat and take pot luck, or try a daytrip that is guaranteed to hring you back to where you started from, the easiest departure point is Stromkajen - the quay in front of the Grand Hotel in Stockholm. There is an illuminated departure board in front of each boat telling you which stops it is planning to make, and you can huy tickets on board.

Most of the boats leave hetweeo eight and nine in the morning,

which, if you are on a day trip, means you can get quite a long way hefore it is time to come home again. The vessels are enclosed, but they have large windows, which offers uninterrupted views of the scenery - even if you are making a

trip out of season. Like a country hus service, the boats stop here and there around the archipelago. The first stop is at Nacka Strand, little more than a suburb, where commuters pour out to go to work at the Ericksson factory on the quayside. At Klippudden, there are often school parties that use the service when the pupils go



on field trips. And inhabitants of the smaller islands use it when they go

on a shopping expedition, One of the wealthiest looking islands in the archipelago is Vaxbolm. The first thing you notice as the ferry approaches the harbour is the old fortress. Built for King Gustav Vasa in the middle of the 16th century, it has seeo off Danes and Russians, and still looks as if it could protect the inhabitants from any modern-day invasion. But it failed to prevent the 19th-century incursions of the wealthy burgers of Stockholm, who huilt flamboyant holiday homes oo the island.

The fortress protects the best part of Vaxholm. Walk around the water's edge, along Strandgatan, and them clamber up on to the Battery, and look down over the oorth harbour to a pretty cluster of houses below you. and the ateely sea beyond.

The closer you are to Stockholm, the more densely packed are the islands; they thin out considerably as you go further and further east. As sooo as you leave Vaxholm to head deeper into the archipelago, the landscape becomes softer. The houses look as though they were built to cope with a climate that is harsh for most of the year, there is more dependence oo boats and less oo the city. The Swedish islands may not be as sun-dreoched as those in the Aegean, but they have a remoteness that few Greek islands manage to achieve.

Stockholm is included in this weekend'a BA promotion. at a fare of £89 return from London; see page 19. Cathy Packe paid £119 return for n flight from Heathrow on SAS (0845 607 2772). She stayed abourd the vessel Rygerfjord Sodemalarstran, moored in Stockholm harbour, where she paid £50 n night for n single room with breakfast. Swedish Travel & Tourism Council, 11 Montagu Place. London W1H 2AL (0171-724 5868).

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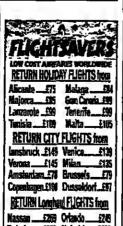
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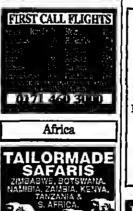
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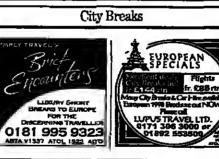






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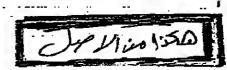
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'Under the weather

If you're ever unhappy with the weather, blame Valentia, off the coast of Kerry, because that's where it comes from. By Sophie Campbell

land; the sort of steady, insistent downpour that started Noah building the Ark and that puts people off coming to Ireland on holiday. Mauve cumulus claude sulfed on ton of the nearby clouds sulked on top of the nearby Kerry mainland. My gym shoes squelched as I left the car and tried to find my B&B on foot. Valentia itself was a lush, dripping smear of green fields, fuchsia hedges and peat bogs,

under a sky as grey as a habit. Still, you can't come to the island which apparently inspired Tennyson to pen: "Break, hreak, break on your cold stones, o sea" and expect Mediterranean sun. Weather is what Valentia does best - turning up night after night on Radio 4's shipping news, between "Sailing By" and the national anthem, number eight in the clockwise rota of weather stations in the British Isles (and the westernmost by far) with its own stormy contribution of variable pressures and Atlantic fronts. "Valentia is very important," said a Met Office spokesman, because so much of our weather comes from the west."

Squelching around the capital of Knightstown in the newly minted weather, wondering how long it took to develop trench foot, I was asked by a man in a car if I was lost. He told me how to get to my B&B and drove off, leaving me apparently alone in the little village. Like so much of south-west Ireland, it makes up for its muted natural palette of greens and grevs with wildlv extrovert house paint: curação for the Galley Kitchen Wine Bar, avocado skin for Boston's the Pub, banana milkshake for the Islander

t had been raining for days was hidden in a protective rectan-when I arrived on Valentia Isgle of trees at the top of the village and facing it at the bottom was the neat little quayside Clock Tower, restored to its former glory as part of the 1980 Tidy Town Scheme.

By now, 10am, the main thoroughfare of Peter Street was beginning to open up, with the utmost reluctance, like an elderly clam. First the sweet shop selling papers and postcards. Then the bar at the Royal Pier Hotel (plain Young's before the Prince of Wales came to visit in 1858). Then the Last Post bric-abrac shop with its collection of brass portholes and cottage china. I stood on the weighing platform next to the Clock Tower that once weighed in coal and timber from Liverpool and wine and olive oil from Andalusia and weighed out slate, potatoes, oatmeal and the odd bull.

In the 19th century, the slate yards just across the road would have been a hive of activity. Slate is omnipresent on Valentia - there is a quarry that now houses a grotto to Our Lady - and slate used to pour out in the form of tiles, lintels, flags and slabs to roof the Houses of Parliament in London and the Opera House in Paris and to help the balls roll evenly on billiard tables across the world. Imported coal was needed to power the gigantic slate saws and the Valentia Slab Company em-ployed many islanders through the years of famine.

Driving back along the Knight-stown Road, it was difficult to imagine that in the last century the school population alone was about 500. Today there are 600 people living on Valentia, working in agriculture, tourism, fishing and radio (there are Restaurant. The Church of Ireland 14 employees at the medium-range



coast station, built in 1914, that relayed messages during both the sinking of the Lusitania and the 1977 Fastnet disaster). At my B&B, Mrs O'Sullivan ushered me in and went to get the phone. "That was Declan to say, did I know that you were coming on foot?"

with a cup of tea. Declan? I remembered the man in the car The bush telegraph was singing already.

Ten minutes away, in the muse-um in the old National School building, I learnt that Valentia comes from the old Irish word "bealinche", or she said, coming back a minute later harbour mouth, rather than home-

sick Spanish privateers, and that the local landfords - the Knights of Kerry - had won their title from Henry II after the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1197. Most fascinating of all was the laying of the Transatlantic Cable, when, for a while, the eyes of the world were on

White Strand, Ballycarbery, Valentia. The process - technically astounding for the time - began in 1857. but was fraught with problems. First the cable, made of hemp, tar, linseed oil, gutta-percha and copper wires, had been twisted in opposite directions by American and British manufacturers, so that it would have unravelled when the ships met in the middle. When it did work, a Dr Whitehouse (left in charge, shamingly, at the Valentia eod) burnt it out "by excessive use of voltage". In the end, though, the skilled

'graphers" - who communicated Content, Newfoundland - were the highest paid men on the island and could be seen constantly kneading their fingers to keep them supple. That evening, a double rainbow

appeared like a vision over the Altzamuth B&B in Knightstown. Inspired, I got up at 7am the next day to walk to the western point of Bray Head, where I could see the Skellig

Islands miles offshore, huried in cloud like two rock cakes in a smokefilled kitchen. Half-way up, the world fell on my head. Rain bounced off the

tussocky grass, off the rough path,

off the peat bogs behind me. It poured down my neck stiffened my jeans, re-soaked my gym shoes. And as I stood there, with the waves foaming white and green below, thinking about the cable stretching all the way to America. the Skelligs suddenly appeared again, radiant against a background of Virgin Mary blue. Rain swept over me on its way east, dragging behind with their colleagues at Heart's it a beautiful day. The sun came out. The path glistened like a silver ribbon. On the mainland, patches of green made fleeting appearances, like visions of Arcadia, soon to be obliterated with what I felt was my personal rainstorm. I wondered if I should ring friends in London, warn them what was on the way. But I

reckoned they'd probably hear it on

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SOPHIE CAMPBELL paid £90 including tax for a return ticket from Stansted to Kerry with Rvanair (0541 569569) and £8 extra for a return fare on the Stansted Express (£21 without a Ryanair ticket). She rented a Group A car from Holiday Autos (0900 300411), which costs £239 per week in August. An ensuite room at Glenreen Heights B&B, on the Knightstown Road (00 353 667 6241), costs £17 per

night, including Irish breakfast, or £15 for a standard room. The ferry from Knightstown to Renard Point is run by Valentia Island Ferries Ltd (00 353 667 6141) and costs £3 single or £4 return for a car, or £1 single and £2 return for foot passengers. It runs throughout the day from 10am. There is also a road hridge to the mainland at Portmagee, on the other side of

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Hidden desert marvels

Libya may not be the first choice of destination for holidaymakers, but Jane Cochrane found it a delight

to Jamahiraya? I am baffled by the first question on my green visa application card. So I ring Avril Randell, who is taking me with her to Libya and explain that, as far as I know, I haven't, hut how can I be sure? After correcting my pronunciation sbe told me that a Jamahiraya" is a cross between a Democracy and a Republic, and I

had started at page three. Eventually, after folding and opening the card in a variety of different ways and turning the pages hackwards I found the heading in English, "The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiraya".

In the last two years, Avril, whose card calls her a "Battlefield Tour Manager", has takeo four groups of Second World War veterans into Lihva, over its eastern border with Egypt, to visit the war cemetery in Tobruk and the battlefield sites in the east of the country. Now she is doing the reconnaissance for a trip taking old soldiers and their relations into Libya, over the western border with Tunisia, to Tripoli and through to Benghazi, I accompanied her, as my father was killed in Libya in 1943.

Before we set out I asked her what I should take and wear. It is quite alright to take a camera, hut she advised me to wear a skirt to my ankles or trousers, shirts with long sleeves and a high neck, cotton or linen, and nothing see-through. "And you'll need a sensible nightle with long sleeves, in case a man comes into your hotel room with the room service. Now I must go and clean out the hamster cage. Cheerio!"

Avril organises these tours in an entirely voluntary capacity from her kitchen table in Norfolk and fits it in with her family life and farm.

Libyans know nothing of the Second World War, But, like almost every other government in the world, Libya is interested in encouraging some limited tourism and Avril's "cottage industry" is expanding.

Many veterans of the desert war wish to return, but this is not the only reason to go. In spite of discouraging advice from the Foreign Office. I found Libya a delight.

Although always accompanied, we were not restricted in where we went, and nothing was too much trouble for Fatma, the representative from Apollonia Tours.

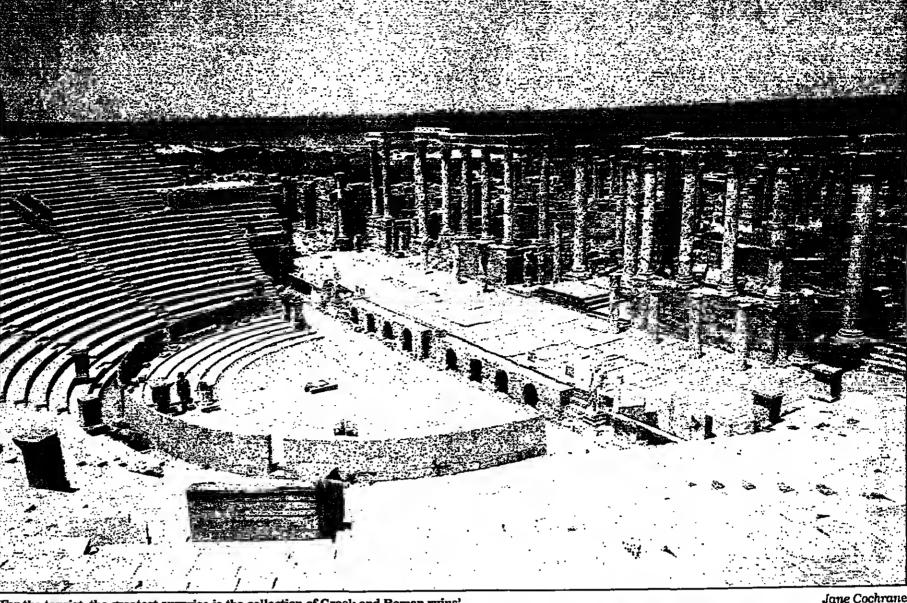
The war cemeteries in the two main cities, Tripoli and Benghazi, were easy to find and scrupulously cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

We also wanted to visit the battlefield at "Beda Fom" near Benghazi, where, in 1940, an army of a quarter of a million Italians surrendered to 30,000 British troops under Wavell. So Fatma found us a bedouin shepherd who knew this remote place named only after a well. He guided us over a desert ridge beyond the end of the Tarmac road and dirt track and there we found the remains of gun emplacements and spent cartridges.

to ask a Sudanese camel herd if we could have some fresh camel's milk, but it was the wrong time of day for milking camels.

Often we felt that time stood still, hut in other ways Libya seemed very modern. Satellite television dishes are on sale by the roadside and pick up news beamed from the BBC, Damascus and 20 other channels, Although not participants, groups of young men everywhere were watch-

ing the World Cup. you get the feeling that it a



'For the tourist, the greatest surprise is the collection of Greek and Roman ruins'

and the huge Mediterranean beaches were empty. I asked Avril if she ever swam but she said she didn't risk it. On her first trip she wore a sarong which once hlew back in a gust of wind. Afterwards, a tour guide had whispered in her ear: "I have seen your legs, I will not sleep tonight."

After that she secured the sarong with a safety pin.

The town and city markets were full of both modern clothes and hanks of hand-woven cotton and linen for the traditional robes that many Libyan men still wear. One could also buy hrightly coloured handwoveo stripy silk, saffron, jas-Fatma stopped on the way back mine oil, olive oil soap, copper pots and 10ft high copper pinnacles for mosques, not to mention fresh dates and the tastiest honey.

> Unlike in neighbouring countries, the locals took no notice of us walking through the souks with our guide. But anyone who cannot bear the thought of a week without alcobol should not even consider going to Libya as it is strictly illegal. On our 600-mile drive along the

desert road between Tripoli and Benghazi, the driver frequently The weather was warm and hraked hard to avoid sedate camels sunny in a Californian kind of way as they crossed in front of us lookther to left nor right. In more Gadhafi's coup in 1967; younger but the swimming pool in our hotel huilt-up areas, a roadside feature is

the wild sculptures of twisted metal tubing which turn out to be racks of many guest workers as there are inexhaust pipes for sale. In the towns. we saw similar sculptures of long handled paint rollers.

These belong to immigrant Egyptian workers who also stand with their picks and marble polishing machines to advertise their trade and availability for work.

Huge Libya - the size of France. Germany, Holland and Scandinavia put together - has a population of

under five million and there are as digenous Libyans.

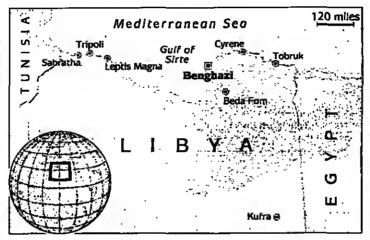
We were proudly shown a reservoir for the man-made river. This is a hugely ambitious scheme, now almost complete, to hring water from the desert town of Kufra, some 1,250 miles away to the coastal towns and farms for drinking water and irrigation. In a country where bottled water is 10 times more expensive than petrol this will be welcome.

est surprise is the collection of Greek and Roman ruins. The old Roman towns of Sabratha and Leptis Magna are beautifully sited by the seashore. Before the war, the Italians began to excavate them, hut lit-

tle more has happened since then. These Roman towns have never intact than any I have ever seen else- without another tourist for miles.

For the tourist, though, the great- where. In Sabratha the best mosaic floors have been brought to a museum on the site.

Leptis Magna also has a site museum with superb Greek and Roman statues, friezes and funerary urns which, as the custodian showed us, still contain human bones. Outside Leptis, at the end of a long been built over, and their streets. sandy track we had the extraordiarches, markets, theatres, baths nary experience of standing in a giand communal loos remain more gantic and complete Roman arena



FACT FILE

JANE COCHRANE'S seven-day trip was arranged through Arah Tours Limited, 60 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 5FF (0171-935 3273). She paid £1,000 for flights.

visa, car, driver, accommodation and all food. The British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895) has

availability on its tour to Libya early in October. An excellent map of Libya, at a scale of 1:2m, is produced by the Hungarian company

Cartographia. Unfortuna

(0171-836 1321) is uncertain about when it will next get supplies. Try the Geoprojects 1:3.5m (£7), which Stanfords does have in stock.

Stanfords Map and Book Shop

The latest Foreign Office travel advice, issued in June, says: "We have no diplomatic relations with Libya and the protection we can offer to British nationals visiting the country is limited. Register with the British Interests Section, Italian Embassy, Tripoli (tel: 3331192/3)".

THAT SUMMER

Flames of passion in the days of Franco

Liz Nash hitched round Spain with a friend fending off unwanted amorous advances

MY POLITICALLY right-on friends warned me off Spain while Franco remained in power. Endorsing Fascism. they said. I was stung, but took no notice. Sue and I landed in Barcelona at dawn, or dusk. I forget, and gasped at the and sleeping bags, but slept flushed Mediterranean sky. I'd rough only once in five weeks. never flown before.

friendly... My amhition re- women thrashing their laundry

postcard home. How invincible I felt, with my two T-shirts, cotton skirt sewn from a Laura Ashley offcut, white sandals and contraceptive pills. We toted Army surplus backpacks in a municipal wash-house, "Everyone is smiling and shooed away at daybreak by

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alised," I crowed in my first against the granite ridges. I'd saved £60 from a joh as a barmaid. Sue, who had a proper job, had £100, which meant she

> We had no guidebook, just a map and a pocket dictionary. We knew about Gaudi, though, and sought out his extraordinary buildings, covered in grime. We headed to the dim barrio chino (red-light district) for a cheap

love-affair with Spanish cuisine. Pasta soup, lamb chops, tomato salad, hlackish wine could afford souvenirs. from the jug, sweet fizzy water, egg flan. It became our staple diet, served wordlessly in inns where the choice was minimal. We hitched to Huesca and

experienced our first fiesta buckets of wine and peaches, dancing in the street and the ferce sexual directness of boys thirsty for anything from beyond the Pyrenees, who quizzed us about Jean-Paul Sartre and Led Zeppelin. 1 fell for an easygoing lad with a Vespa who drove me to his old home, a dank ruin in the heart of town, and his new home, a cramped flat on the outskirts, where his mother laid a crisp embroidered cloth in my honour. I spilt red wine on it, hut she cleared it away still smiling.

meal that launched a lifelong

I refused to accompany him to the bullfight, which I thought cruel and barbaric, hut amazingly managed to find him later in the tipsy torrent that poured from the bullring, and we roared into the pine-clad hills. This was boring for Sue, so we moved on, stopping short of our desti-nation if a likely hill-top village came into view around lunch time. We avoided travelling in the afternoons, when drivers became drowsy or amorous.

We were both objects of curiosity with our fair skin, vast hair and sloppy gear, so we learnt to deflect unwelcome approaches hy being hrisk. Spaniards, we concluded, were too dignified to foist themselves upon curt English women. Predators melted away or became allies after a crisp word and a chummy smile.

Lorries ruled the interand hours rolled by while I tried to converse with drivers, sometimes - hravely, I thought - asking what they thought of Franco. One, in the intimacy of his cab, ventured a joke at the Caudillo's expense, about a toad, which escaped me, but I felt honoured by the confidence.

Two brothers took us in a smart car to their home in Madrid, whirled us round the capital by night, then installed us chastely in their absent parents' brocaded matrimonial bed.

Next morning Sue and I found a hostel in a steep lane whose name, Cervantes, sounded promising, so we atayed a few days, bought greengages, honey, olives, sar-dines, lemons and brandy from shops nearby and trotted down the hill to the Prado to gaze at a single Velazquez, or a Goya.

We dined on pickled anchovies, spicy potatoes, fried squid, and shrimps whose husks we cast to the floor, then rolled bome through the gloom and clapped our hands. The sound rang in the shuttered silence, summoning the nightwatchman who carried keys to

every house in the street. With deep suspicion, he let us in. Two philosophy students took us to Salamanca, where we sat in Spain's most beautiful square while the dark one composed, then recited, a poem, and the fair one bent his attention to Sue. But we hadn't come here to be entertained by intellectuals.

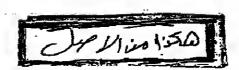
Heading south, we smoked and drank with a couple of crop-haired conscripts until a pre-dawn hour, when they hurried for a train to their harracks. Lodgings hecame rougher. Once I turned on a tap and received an electric shock.

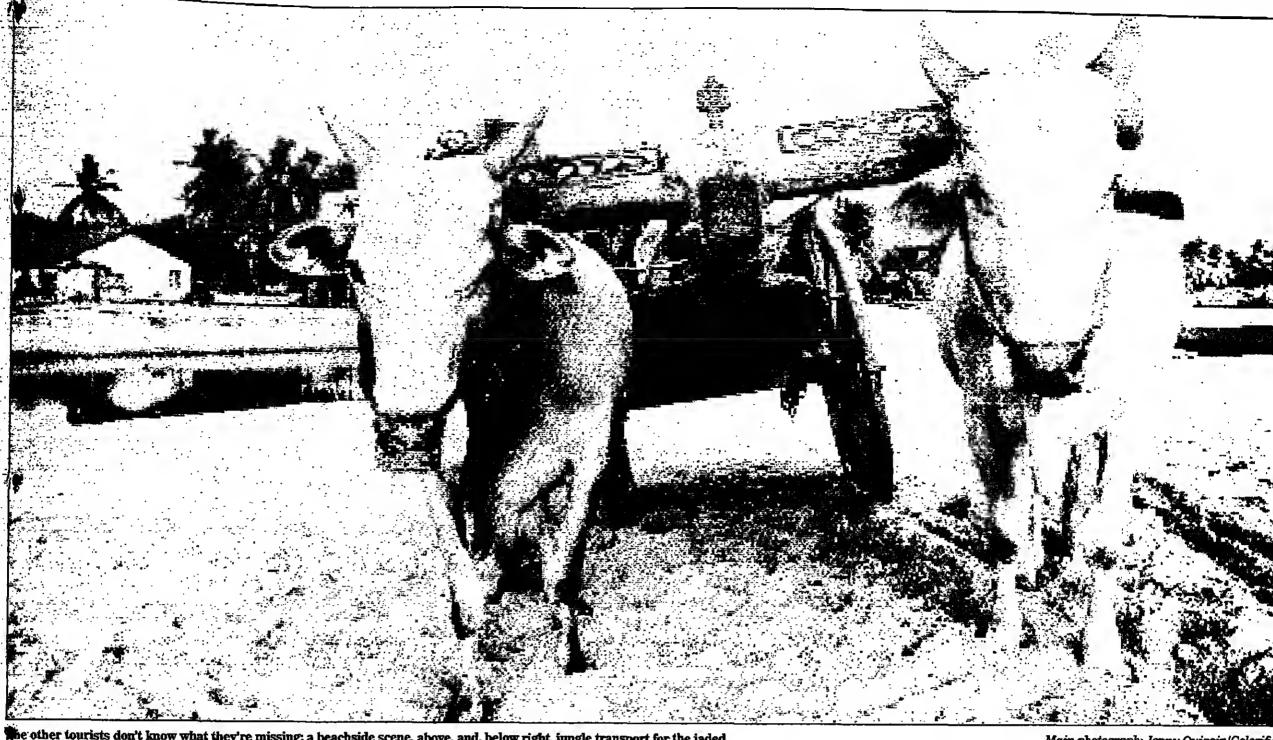
Two gypsies promised to take us to Granada, then explained that they were heading for Montilla to play guitar at a wine-tasting flamenco festival. They said they'd fix us up, say we were cousins. For the first time I felt uneasy, and on arrival asked the man in charge to help. "I mean, it's obvious we're not their cousins, isn't it?" He gave us a room and a ticket for the event, worth a staggering £5 each, a bottle of montilla and a scarlet carnation. Beneath the Andalusian moon we sat up all night to a savagely thrilling



We knew about Gaudí and sought out his buildings'

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Serendipity strikes in Sri Lanka

Among the temple flowers and free-roaming cows, Nicola Bray lost her fear of being shot, and learned to love travelling alone

It was therefore; perhaps, not unexpected that as a single female. ooking an eight-day guided tour of orth Sri Lanka to meet like-minded individuals, I was faced with an ironic quirk of fate: Kuoni told me I was the only one on the tour. I suspect that it would have been easier for everyone if I had cancelled or

switched to another holiday, but to its credit the company was prepared to take a solo traveller. What's wrong with everybody? was my first thought - and one that I loudly imparted to my parents when visiting them that evening. My mother peered at me over her spectacles. "I'm not surprised dear". Her voice took on the irritating quality of the Beattle character in the BT ads: "The last two times you've been on holiday you've managed to hit on war zones. Israel, you got bombed. Egypt, you got followed by the secret police". She opened her

going to finish me off. A few weeks later I found myself tanding in the departure lounge beling something that I've not felt in years; a real sense of anticipation and excitement about my holiday. There is something both exhilarating and formidable about travelling by yourself for the first time - there's no one to lean on, no one to pick on and no one to comfort you in hosp-

palm heavenward, and then con-

cluded, with some conviction, that

the Tamil Tigers were probably

ital when you get shot. When I landed in Sri Lanka, my first impression of the capital, Colombo, was of rusted corrugated iron, half-finished buildings, bamboostick scaffolding, traffic jams and humid heat. Two hours later, I arrived at my hotel in Mount Lavinia - a beautiful white colonial-style building with a strange combination of dark and dingy passageways and exquisite, unforgettable views of my balcory window into the warmth

dusky bodies playing and plunging in the waves, and the liquid amber swell of the ocean crashing against the rocks below. I lay on my bed later that evening, with the sound of the sea penetrating the closed balcony windows, and drifted off to sleep.

The following day my tour guide, Brian, met me with an airconditioned car, instead of the usual group mini-bus. As we set off for the first leg of the tour - a five-hour drive north to Anuradhapura - I quizzed Brian about Colombo. En route we passed the World Trade Centre. which had been bombed several months earlier. The impact was evidenced by the hundreds of shattered windows and many hotels that were still only semi-operational. I reached for my camera, but Brian warned me that photographs were forbidden.

After the heat and hustle of the capital, the true beauty of Sri Lanka started to unfold. The country-only 270 miles long by 140 miles wide has a diverse climate, culture and religious influences, and a colourful history and natural beauty. For me. it was some of the idiosyncrasies of the country that made it so special. Many local people have belief in the "evil eye" and post human efficies on the roof or in the grounds of their



the Indian Ocean. I stepped through homes to ward off evil spirits (to fool the spirits into believing that some-

The view was breathtaking. Bril- with heautiful white ribbons and sure gardens, mirror wall and palace somebody in the village has died. Yellow dogs and cows roam freely, relaxing in the roads, and the scent of the beautiful "temple flower" tree, with its dark green leaves and lilywhite flowers, pervades the air.

Some homes are colourfully branded with pictures of consumer products - like yellow soapboxes or hlue-and-white toothpaste hlocks the painted colours cheerfully clashing with the surrounding peaceful, lush green vegetation.

The rivers are crowded with women washing clothes and stretching them out on the banks to dry in the sun. At the beginning or end of the day, men and women can be found bathing, fully clothed, normally in segregated areas, then making the uncomfortable walk home, dripping wet, modesty intact.

As I reach Anuradhapura, the temperature is sweltering. I am amazed at the wealth of historical sites and religious monuments available, and walk with Brian around the sites in my bare feet (shoes and hat must be removed at many religious sites). I quickly develop the art of speedwalking between the shady bits, much to the amusement of my guide, who had leather-soled feet.

Many of the places on the main tourism thoroughfare are in close proximity to each other - including the Bo Tree (a sapling of the original tree where the Buddha gained enlightenment), Gal Potha (the rock book), the Shiva Temple (worshipped by Hindu women seeking blessings for conception - with offerings made to a stone penis) and beautiful dagobas (bell-shaped buildings). However, the place to visit and one definitely not to be missed - is Sigiriya Palace (also known as Lion Rock) - an impregnable palace built on top of a huge rock, with the only access, originally, through the carved mouth of a lion.

Village roadsides are decorated glimpses of original frescoes, pleatounding, and the view will take your hreath away (although the climb had already done that for me).

> The closer we got to the rebelheld territory, the more military checkpoints there were to be negotiated with the help of special travel permits - but any fears I might have had of being shot by Tamil Tigers were somewhat alleviated by the brilliant array of pot plants and colourful flowers set on top of the paint-patterned oil drums, placed in alternate rows across the road.

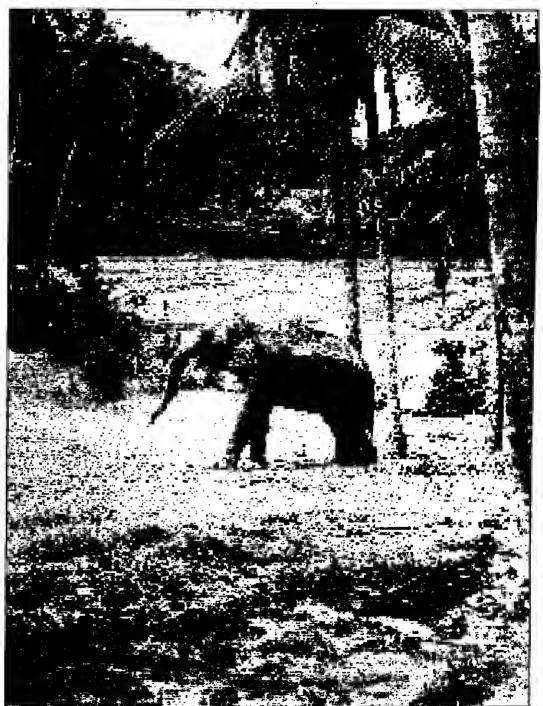
Two days later I was finally delivered back to my original hotel, Mount Lavinia. Throughout the tour I had had the opportunity to do many things - an elephant ride in the jungle; and visits to an elephant sanctuary, a batik factory, a mask factory, a spice plantation, a woodcarving workshop and a gem factory. I had also sampled the local cuisine, hoppers (a type of pancake, with raised sides, with fried egg at the bottom, eaten with a variety of curry dishes) and had acquired a

taste for a spicy breakfast. Having a guide all to myself meant that I had no time to feel lonely; there was so much to see, do, listen and learn.

I accumulated a wealth of knowledge about Sri Lanka, the people and the language - which would ordinarily have taken me months.

This holiday gave me empowerment. I am no longer scared to travel by myself or to hire my own guide for trips ahroad. It's an exciting world out there, and one that I now have the courage to

Nicola Bray paid £1,118 for a twoweek holiday in Sri Lanka with Kuoni, booked through Thomas Cook. The price included all travel, accommodation, most meals and a side-trip to the Maldives.



A train "The most outlandish train in Europe" is an uncharacteristic piece of editorialising by the compilers of the Thomas Cook European Timetable. Every Saturday at 5.15pm, the Saratov sets off from Berlin to travel \$,450 miles east to Novosibirsk - exactly the same dislance as from London to New York. It first calls at Warsaw, but then bypasses almost everywhere of interest during its five-day journey to link up with the Trans-Siberian railway. Both ends of the line, but cankfully not the train itself, will appear in the new-look travel pages of The Independent next

Next month, Britain gets reconnected with Colorado. Continental Airlines dropped its Gatwick-Denver service a

few years back, but British Airways (0345 222111) is now stepping in with a daily Boeing 777 from 1 September. To launch the link, BA is selling a World Offer return of £299.

A cottage in a World Heritage Site costs 2300 or £400 for a week this summer, and as little as £175 in the autumn. The Waterhouses at New Lanark are converted cottonworkers' cottages, on the bank of

the Clyde river south-east of Glasgow. Because this is the first season that the properties have been up for grabs, availability is good, even in August; call 01555 667200.

Chile is a tasty sort of place, according to the new edition of Wanderlust magazine (£2.80 from newsagents and travel bookshops, or on subscription from 01753 620426), "Chileans traditionally have four meal-times a day: breakfast around eight, lunch around two, onces around five and evening meal around 9-10pm. Onces is more of a mid-afternoon snack ... literally meaning

CHECK

'elevenses', the term supposedly derives from the 11 letters of the spirit aguardiente and was workers' code for 'drink break'." The magazine also launches a travelwriting competition, to be judged by Bill Bryson, with the prize of an assignment to Chile.

Wimhledon has an interesting Temperance history," says David Harrison, whose evening tour of the Pubs and Ghosts of Wimbledon Village has been extended by popular demand through August and into September.

The non-Temperance tours of London SW19 take place each Tuesday, starting at the Dog and Fox at 7.30pm and lasting about two hours. The cost is £2, and the final tour

0181-946 3219 for more details. A week from now... ... the annual Elvis Presley memorial event reaches its climax

in Memphis, Tennessee. The singer died 21 years ago at his home in the city.

Despite heavy bookings across the Atlantic, the flight consolidator Bon Voyage (01703 330332) has seats available to the city on Delta via Cincinatti for £598 return.

A year from now Cornwall could be in the middle of its busiest weekend ever, in the build-up to the last total eclipse of of the year is on 8 September. Call the Millennium, which sweeps across the south-west of the coun-

ty on 11 August 1999. The best source of information is the Royal Greenwich Observatory's Guide to the 1999 Total Eclipse noon. Fares are between £55 and £59.

of the Sun (available from Tor Mark, 01209 822101, £5.99 plus £1 postage). The book includes a Mylar eclipse

Roads in the county could be choked at the time of the event, so the railways are likely to provide the most sensible alternative. Unfortunately, Great Western Trains is refusing to take bookings this far in advance. But Explorers Tours (01753) 681999) is already selling seats on chartered trains from Preston, Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry, London, Reading and Bristol, so you can reserve your place out of the sun. They will travel overnight to Penzance, and return in late after-

1 ALONE IN SRI LANKA P27 LIBYA OPENS UP P26 ON THE ROAD IN FRANCO'S SPAIN P26



All at sea, whether calm and collected, above, or bowling through Biscay, below right

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3684. Saturday 8 Augus

ACROSS

Start of mission from Zagreb, last of five (5-3) Public address system ini- 2 tially being fitted around official building (6) Crash study programme? 3

Salesman's spiel standing in front of oew model (7) Withdrawal of help be-fore race leads to bitter harangue (8) officer (5) For protection, say, one

occds old-fashioned copper to come round (5) Elaborate hat completed in six days? (8) Flowers seen in front of country railway station in France, mostly (7) Broken-down train that's

not moving? (7)
Aiming to meet cardinals in educational establishment (8, 7) Arrest sailor in debt? (6)

DOWN

Sponsor's taxi turning up ahead of royal couple? (6) Fluent and glib about bits half ignored in impromptu speech-making (2-7) Co-ordinates victory in replayed match (7)

intelligence as being supernatural? (5) Old pot for new chimney here? (7) Start to cram in food? That's stuffing (5)
Local uprising in Elba, one
unlikely to be repeated at
regular intervals? (8)

Swimsuit worn by English bird formerty? (3-5) Occurrence in hospital de-partment probed by detec-tives (8)

Ephemeral abbreviation? (5-4) Carnage initially extin-guished merriment (8) Key Spanish king used to

imprison English queen (7) Structure from Late Latin encountered in critical resit (7) 22 Shiny material observed swathing Cockney's head-

Indicate response to laws supporting religious educa-Suffer pain, cured after

TODAY'S TELEVISION APPEARS IN THE SEPARATE LISTINGS GUIDE

Tall story

On board the Swan, Sally Kindberg saw dolphins and whales and tuna, and learned the art of climbing into the top bunk

my friends said. Armed with this advice for avoiding seasickness and a photocopied map of the coastline of western Europe circa 1930, I set out for southern shores aboard the Swan Fan Maldaum.

I was taking part in the first leg of the annual Cutty Sark Tall Ships' Race, this year a 760-mile voyage from Falmouth to Lisbon. I was acting as crew member and unofficial on-board illustrator - I did some very wobbly drawings. As I made my shaky way up the gangplank of my ship, a sturdy but elegant Dutch brigantine (two masts, the forward one square-rigged) I tried to convince myself that previous nautical experience, which included rather dodgy skills acquired at the age of 10 on a Nottingham boating lake, would stand me in good stead.

About 70 ships, little ketches, yawls, sloops and cutters as well as barques, brigs and fully rigged, square-rigged ships - the Russians were the biggest - were already gathered in Falmouth, where there was a festival atmosphere.

Multicoloured flags flapped, sightseers thronged, boro-again spivs sold woolly snakes on sticks, and there was a Cornish pasty crisis - Falmouth had sold out by

early evening.
Cool Mexican sailors wearing black frock-coats with cinched-in waists, Walkmans and Canons slung from their cutiassloops, were already doing very well promoting international understanding, one of the aims of the Tall Ships' Race, with admiring groups of Falmouth girls.

The race is organised by the International Sail Training Association. To quali-fy for entry, half the crew of each ship must comprise under-25s, not necessarily with sailing experience. In the second leg of the race, from Vigo to Dublin, the crews are swapped around. My ship, owned by her Dutch captain and built in Gdansk in 1993, had 50 people aboard.

There were 14 permanent crew - Dutch.

hew on a piece of ginger and keep your eye on the horizon.

German and Irish – most of whom had daz-keep your eye on the horizon.

German and Irish – most of whom had daz-keep your eye on the horizon.

One of the crew caught a tuna, which was eaten for lunch. ging at the drop of a shackle pin. One of these did drop, rather alarmingly, along with a large Stanley knife and a wooden block. The rest of the crew included students from a catering college, various photographers, some young Portuguese who had won a Lisbon newspaper competition, a Scottish teacher, blonde sisters who had walked straight out of a Village of the Damned set, a radio man who at one point Interviewed a dolphin, and two jolly watch salesmen with fat tummies who wore wonderful fluorescent sea ensembles when

we reached warmer weather. My cabin companion was a taciturn Brazilian who wore earplugs and complained a lot. I chose the top bunk. This was a mistake, I later learned.

As we sailed out of Falmouth, watched impassively by the monolithic QE2 - on her first visit to the Cornish port - there was not a fluttering hanky from the dock in sight; instead it was mobiles ahoy!

Then life at sea began. Work could involve rope-pulling, deckswabbing, washing-up and rope-coiling. I learnt several important skills - walking at acute angles, wedging and clinging. My cabin under the foredeck often tipped several feet under the Atlantic, and it took me three days to adjust to sleeping with my feet often higher than my head.

When the ship was heeled over, the only way to get into the top bunk was to walk up the side of the fixed cupboard. Rolling off could be avoided by wedging yourself in with your lifejacket. If the ship tacked the other way, you ended up sleeping on the ship's side. I began to walk with a lurch which involved little crab movements as we rocked and rolled south of the Scillies. Several people kept to their cabins.

The ship groaned, bellowed, sighed and whistled on its way. A homing pigeon with a blue anklet hitched a lift. As we entered the Bay of Biscay we were buzzed by dolphins, and whales spouted in the distance. We began to shed layers of clothes.

I asked the captain, "When is a ship a tall ship?" "When it thinks it is," was his reply. We hit a heavy Biscay swell, huge bully waves that knocked the ship about and a force 10 wind. Three of the sails were badly torn and a cable snapped. Crockery zoomed across the saloon and smashe against the side of the ship.

Several ships retired from the race with damaged rigging. There followed days of drowsy langour punctuated by furious ac-tivity. Members of the permanent crew whizzed up and down the masts in a bosun's chair with gluepots and sail patches.

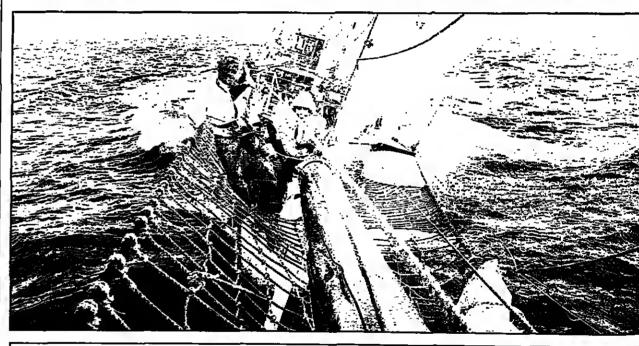
There was a serious outhreak of jokes. We sighted land - the mountains of northern Spain - and rounded Cape Finisterre. Two of the crew polished the brass casing of the old binnacle, made by Lillie & Gillie of South Shields. I went up the rope ladder to the first platform (about 20 metres), my hands shaky for about half an

hour afterwards.

As we sailed farther south a haze obscured the coast and there was a smell of singeing - sunbathing tourists perhaps? I got a fix of the radio man's factor 50, just in case. It was foggy and the ship was becalmed. The jokes got worse and there was an isolated case of karaoke.

We eventually crossed the finishing line at Cascais, just outside Lisbon, in the early hours of the eighth day after sailing from Falmouth, We seemed to be running third, with the Russian ships Mir and Kreuzenshtern in the lead. The ship's fire alarm went off, a singing duo banged a tambourine, chunks of the Atlantic whooshed over the deck, champagne corks popped and later that morning, apparently (I was tucked up in my bunk). Barbara the ship's blow-up doll joined the celebrations.

Although we were the third of the Class A ships to cross the line, a complicated handicap system is used to determine overall winners because of the disparity in the ships' sizes. I think we ended up 24th, but by then no one cared much.



FACT FILE

THE TALL SHIPS will leave Vigo, northern Spain, on 12 August, and arrive in Dublin on the weekend of 22-23 August. Next year's race starts from St Malo on 23 July and finishes oo 18 August at Aalborg, Denmark, sailing via Greenock and Lerwick.

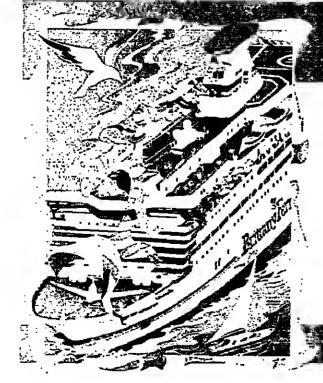
For race information call the International Sail Training Association (ISTA) on 01705-586367, e-mail: raceofficeatista.co.uk

Costs for young people vary according to the vessel and success in finding sponsorship. For example, all 39 trainees aboard the schooner Malcolm Miller (owned by the STA) obtained sponsorship or bursaries to cover the cost of £1,330 for sailing plus flights bome. For the 16 trainees aboard the ketch Team Spirit of Wight (owned by the Ocean Youth Club, 01705-528421), the trip to Lisbon cost

£779 plus fare bome, but most of them

had obtained sponsorship. For information about sail training, sponsorship, bursaries, etc, cootact the Association of Sea Training Organisations (ASTO) through the Royal Yachting Association on 01703-627400; e-mail: training@rya.org.uk The ship Lord Nelson is specially

adapted for crew with physical



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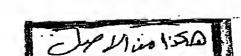
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Electricity sales at the checkout

A 10-month campaign starts next month to open

up the power market, but consumers will need to be wary, Paul Slade reports

ing where you buy your groceries isn't bizarre enough, you will soon be able to buy your electricity om the company that insures our car, Paul Slade discovered.

Next month sees the start of a 10month campaign to introduce competition into the electricity supply industry. Customers in Canterbury, Margate and Dover will be among the first targets.

Insurance companies, banks and supermarkets have already decided they want a piece of the action, and hope to act as agents, selling power on behalf of the electricity suppliers.

In a report published this week Coopers, half of the big financial period of 14 days. services companies and retailers selling electricity, with 22 per cent market soon. One big financial services player said it wants one nillion electricity customers within

Murray MacFarlane, the PwC partner responsible for the report, says: "A typical insurance company may be good at making insurance, but if they haven't got good customer access, they're cut off at the knees. Therefore, they are looking for any mechanism that establishes them with a customer

"In principle, I can imagine a Commercial Union or a NatWest Bank saying Why don't you buy your electricity through us? If you're a current customer, we'll give you a special deal'."

If the sales techniques used by other agents in last year's gas competition campaign are any indicator, customers will need to be

Ian Bickley, spokesman for the Office of Electricity Regulation (Offer), says: "With gas, it was reported that people were asked to sign a form which said that someone had reduction than that" visited them and spoken to them. What they didn't realise was that they were actually signing a contract to take a supply from that company."

In order to guard against such sharp practice, Offer has introduced licence conditions for electricity suppliers and their agents. The conditions specify no payment in advance, compensation in cases of malpractice, proper training for by accountants Pricewaterhouse- all sales staff, and a "cooling off"

Kate Goodfellow, a senior 2 What payment options do you questioned said they might start researcher at the Consumers' Association, says: "We hope the 3 Will I have to pay my bills weekly, the licences will have some effect. But we do have concerns that similar practices might occur because even after the introduction of similar marketing conditions - they still haven't entirely gone away

> Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of electricity supply, admits there have already been a few instances of new electricity suppliers marketing their wares in advance of September's launch, where "customers have been deliberately misled, or where improper sales practices have been used, particularly in the case of doorstep selling."

> As with gas, the incentive produced for customers tempted to

switch suppliers will be cheaper power, although the actual savings look like being quite small.

"Electricity prices have come down quite a bit already," said PwC's MacFarlane. "At the moment, people would quote 1 per cent to 3 per cent. My gut feeling is that economics will produce more

The rolling campaign to introduce competition will continue until June next year, by which time every domestic electricity user in the UK should have a choice of suppliers.

Before considering a new supplier, Offer says you should get certain answers from the electricity

1 Does your company charge different rates for different times of the day? This could be important for those on Economy 7.

4. Does your contract run for a fixed term? if so, how long will it

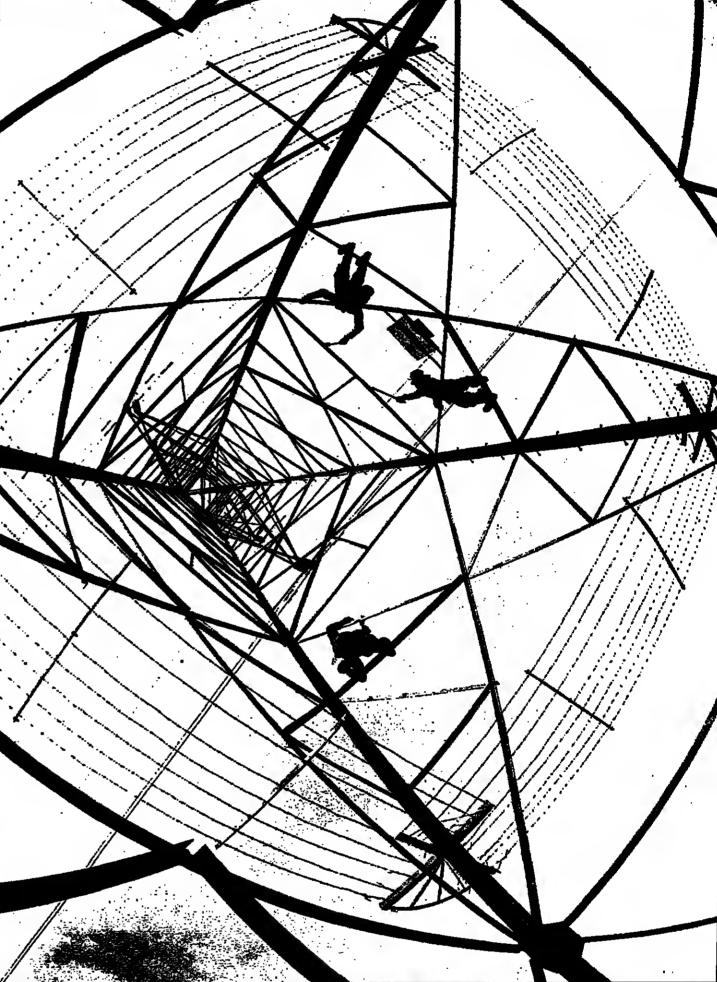
5. How can I end the contract early if I want to, and how much will it cost me to do so?

6. Does your company impose both a standing charge and a unit charge? Or are the two wrapped up in one?

7. How often will my meter be read? 8. What happens if I fall behind in paying my bills? What will your company do to help me catch up

9 To whom do I speak if I have a query or a complaint? 10. Does your company offer addi-

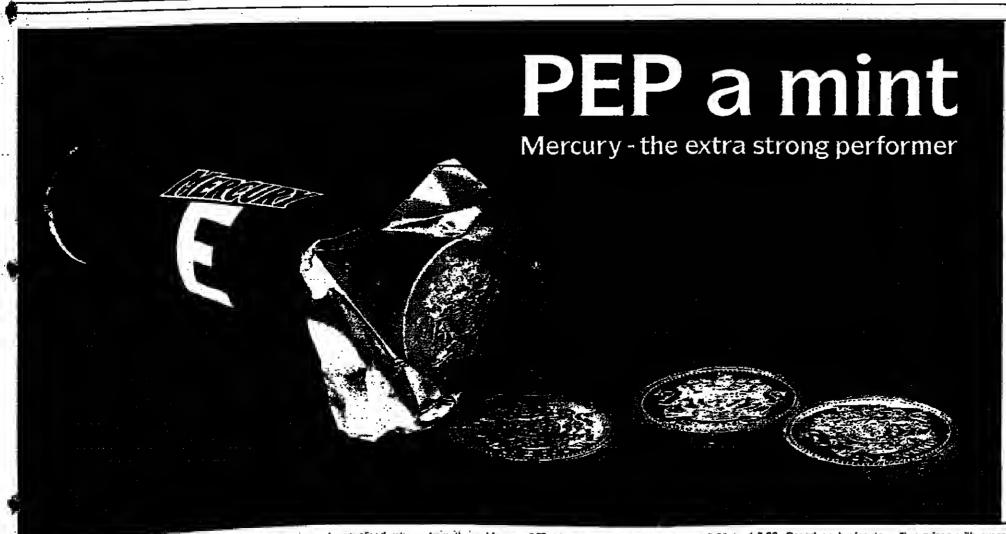
tional services such as energy efficiency schemes?



Pylons rise in power across the countryside, multiplying like the number of outlets that will soon be selling domestic electricity

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2% discount on the buying price "Source: Standard & Poor's Micropal. 14.7% is the average of annualised returns from those Mercury PEPable unit trusts available from 1.8.93 to 1.8.98. Based on buying to selling prices with gross income reinvested.

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Making allowance for retirement

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: JOE RYAN AGE: 56 OCCUPATION: QUALITY MANAGER

oe is married. He lives in Yorkshire and has worked 1969. In that time he has built up a respectable pension entitlement plus an investment portfolio, with the aim of retiring in five years' time, when he

In addition to the pension benefits he is fully protected in terms of Death in Service cover and Private Medical Insurance, and has no need for income replacement (PHI) protection in the event that he loses his joh or cannot contin-

He still has a mortgage of £49,000, which is split between an interest-only loan of £28,000 backed by an endowment policy and a capital and interest (repayment) loan of £21,000, which is due to be repaid by June 2005, while his property is presently reckoned to be worth £100,000.

Joe wishes to review his investment portfolio and pension with the aim of maximising his income after he has retired.

THE ADVISER:

David Wright, a director of Johnstone Douglas, financial planning consultants of Lennig House, Masons Avenue, Croydon, Surrey,

THE ADVICE:

EREE PEP &

INVESCO

Your pension is in good shape. It is which, with your employer's per61, without penalty. After 34 years with the same employer you are projected to receive a pension of approximately 56 per cent of your final salary and you have been building up additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) into the employer's

pension fund over the past few years by paying in £200 each month and topping up your total contributions to the maximum permitted level of 15 per cent of salary at the end of each year with a lump sum, utilising part of your annual bonus

While the retirement income this produces unfortunately will be taxable, you are currently receiving 40 per cent tax relief on your contributions and tax-efficient growth within the additioanl voluntary contribution plan, and I recommend that you continue to maximise your contributions.

I have reviewed your investment portfolio, which is split between yourself and your wife Ann. and I consider that your existing PEP and unit trust holdings are all invested with strong companies in suitable, well-performing funds. I would therefore not recommend that you make any changes at this stage, but simply keep matters under regular review. It is never easy to anticipate changes in the stock market, but the long-term trends should be upwards and you are under no particular pressure to realise these

You also have about £22,000 held

mission, allows you to retire at age maturing Abbey National Bond in October this year, and you are willing to make a further £5,000 available for investment.

I recommend that you both make full use of your Personal Equity Plan allowances for the current tax year and invest £12,000 between you to benefit from tax-efficient growth over the next five years, thus increasing your total portfolio of PEPs to provide further tax-free income in retirement independently of your pension.

To provide a balanced approach, I recommend using different PEP providers than the companies you have previously invested with. The Schroder UK Balanced Growth PEP combines three of Schroders' best performing funds, providing a balanced approach to invest-ment with a leading PEP manager, and a competitive charging

Most investment managers consider Europe to be a particular growth area currently, and I also recommend the Invesco European growth PEP to add balance to your current portfolio. You will notice I believe that growth funds are more suitable for your needs than investments targeting mainly dividend income,

The decision of whether to retain your mortgage or use capital to reduce the mortgage outstanding is often a matter of personal preference. There are still some tax advantages to retaining a mortgage of up to £30,000, and if the return you on deposit in Ann's name, of which can earn on your investments ex-£10,000 becomes available from a ceeds the interest on your mortgage

you will retain flexibility, without sacrificing income.

Mortgage rates are currently nigher than the average dividend on share portfolios, but investments should achieve some capital growth over time, and there would only be a strong case for paying off the mortgage if mortgage rates rose sharply and net dividends on your invest-

As your mortgage is due to be re-paid after your intended retirement age of 61, and as you would not currently have a redemption penalty to pay on your existing mortgage, I would suggest considering a remortgage to take advantage of one of the many mortgage offers currently available, and reviewing the position in five years' time. Most of these offers require a penalty for repayment within five years but you still have time to avoid these penalties without extending the date at which your existing mortgage is to

I would recommend investing the balance of £3,000 into a unit trust in your wife's name, and to continue to save on a monthly basis an amount that you find comfortable at present. The situation can then be reviewed in April 1999, with a view to putting the money into a tax-free Individual Savings Account to complement your existing PEPs.

Overall, your existing arrangements are in very good order, and by utilising those tax-efficient investment allowances available to you both over the next five years you should be able to maximise your in-

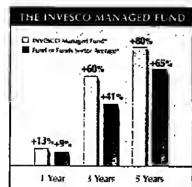


Joe and Ann Ryan share an investment portfolio in 'well-performing companies'

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not back the amount orionals, integral. Charge in enclusive take bothern currences may take the salice of interacting to disting the process Tax learly and refers are from currently applicable and may charge. The salice or are not advantage depends on redictable for constances. The tax featured of PCPs will be, valued to some statems charge in Spot 1999. As the same lime the value of the salices and efficiently to make an a PCP will also.

CLIFFORD GERMAN

The amounts that can be invested in cash-based Individual Savings Accounts, which will take over from Tessas, are too small to cover costs and pay a good enough rate of interest to attract small savers

THE DECISION to hold interest rates unchanged at this week's meeting of the Economic Policy several reasons, not least because it has helped bring down the exchange rate and promise some relief to hard-

pressed exporters. It will also prevent a correction in the property market which, according to most reports, is looking finely balanced outside London.

Things are not looking too good, however, for cash-based Individual Savings Accounts, which are supposed to take over from Tessas next April.

When the detailed proposals were announced last autumn, they were criticised on the grounds that an annual limit of £1.000 on the amount that could be invested was too low, and many savers would, therefore. be tempted to put more than they should into equity-based ISAs (which replace PEPs) where there was a significant risk of their capital shrinking in value, at least in the short run.

Events of the last month show the risks only too clearly. The FTSE 100 index has now fallen by just over 10 per cent from the all-time peak it reached barely a fortnight ago. By some definitions that rates

as a correction, if not yet a full-

hlown bear market. For most investors, of course, to save £1,000 a year is quite a large sum after paying domestic living expenses, yet a higher limit is desirable for many prudent people who could save more than £1,000 a year, but who would not want to put

Moreover, banks and building societies, stores and supermarkets, which are expected to offer cash-based ISAs, need a higher average amount in the accounts to help keep down charges. This is absolutely crucial if the providers of cash-only ISAs are to cover their costs and still

offer an attractive rate of

money into equities.

interest to savers. The average cost of running a cash ISA is estimated at nearly £20 a year, compared with £10-£15 for administering a Tessa. This is mainly because, unlike a Tessa, savers can put money in and take it out of an ISA at any time without losing the tax benefits, and this inevitably increases costs.

But the tax savings on a cash-only ISA account containing £1,000 and earning 7 per cent interest would only be £14 a year to a standard-rate taxpayer compared with a

conventional account paying interest gross.

At the moment, then, the sums just do not add up. No wonder that although the research organisation Datamonitor thinks that supermarkets are ideally placed to offer cheap cash-only ISAs, both Sainsbury and Tesco have decided not to offer them instore where savers want them.

If cash-only ISAs are to offer the instant access which is essential to attract small savers, and also allow the providers to cover their costs. they may start by offering at least 1 per cent below the market rate of interest.

₹...

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Some market research companies claim that insurance companies could enter the market for cash-only ISAs, using ATM machines and retail stores as outlets and subsidising the accounts by cross-selling more profitable products like pensions to their ISA customers.

But rather than relying on cross-subsidies, it seems more sensible for the Treasury to increase the amount individuals can save and hold in a cashonly ISA, both to hold down average management costs and make sure the interest rate is competitive.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

THE LAMBETH Building Society has launched the first-ever Home **Buyers and Seliers Costs** Insurance, a scheme designed to protect home buyers and sellers when a purchase or sale falls through.

For a £30 premium, the policy will pay buyers up to £300 to cover lost legal fees, up to £400 to cover lost arrangement, valuation and survey fees, and up to £300 of nonrefundable insurance costs.

For a premium of £20.80 sellers can reclaim up to £300 of lost legal fees and up to £300 for lost estate agents' fees. Anyone buying one property and selling another can insure both deals for £45.

LONDON & COUNTRY Mortgages is offering three-year mortgages capped at 6.95 per cent until 1 October 2001. Until then, the rate can fall but cannot rise. When the cap expires, borrowers will qualify for a competitive market rate and there will be no redemption penalties at any time.

DISCOUNT BROKER Charles Schwab Europe is offering the customers the chance to access and trade in their own General PEP via the Internet. Customers with General PEP, MarketMaster or Frequent Traders Club accounts can switch between them while logged on. Historical information and a portfolio valuation are available

CITY LAW firm Charles Russell has produced a new guide to maternity rights with flow chart diagrams to illustrate the different options available to pregnant employees. The guide is available by phoning 0171-203-

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading has launched a free plain-language guide to personal finance to help consumers through the pitfalls of financial planning. It contains information on bank accounts. mortgages, investments. insurance and pensions; and

pointers on financial planning, but it is not a substitute for shopping around or getting professional advice. Available from PO Box 366, Hayes UB3 1XB, tel 0870-

THE Which? Guide to Divorce offers couples advice on recent changes to divorce law, legal procedures and financial implications of decisions, as well as tips on finding a lawyer who will take a conciliatory approach and help minimise costs. It includes sections on the interest of children and the Child Support Agency. Available on Freephone 0800-252100 at £10.99.

NATIONAL SAVINGS launched its new-look Web site this week (www.nationalsavings.co.uk). It includes a savings selector, a savings calculator, a database of unclaimed Premium Bond prizes, on-line application forms and information on the impact of tax on investments.

ington told me recently: "Authors can

go out of fashion." Only that morn-

ing he had disappointed a gentleman with a collection of superb leather-

bound limited editions by Somerset

Maugham, signed by the author. As no one is interested in Maugham's

books at present, he could not accept them for auction as he knew they

Somerset Maugham and limited printings to one side, first editions

by famous writers of the 20th century are generally keenly sought by a growing following of collectors. Nov-

elists normally have a broader ap-

peal than poets. Agatha Christie,

William Golding, Graham Greene,

TS Eliot, Ian Fleming, James Joyce, Evelyn Waugh, Virginia Woolf and

PG Wodehouse are among the writers currently at a peak of populari-

ty. Others are joining their ranks. Victoria Lynne of Christie's was re-

cently very surprised when 13 pre-

sentation volumes hy Dennis

Wheatley, which had frayed wrap-

pers and were generally not in good

tablished authors, or the leading fig-

ures in a particular genre of fiction

- such as crime - but interesting

minor writers are not to be over-

looked. The interest for collectors is

that reputations change and au-

thors currently regarded as minor

ular literature. This if course is to the

benefit of anyone who has been en-

thusiastically collecting their first

Generally the first editions of

earlier works are worth more than

later books by the same author. The

reason is simple. When a writer is

an "unknown" his or her work is

printed in small numbers. As an au-

thor secures a reputation, publish-

ers are prepared to undertake larger

print runs and therefore first editions

of a new work are more abundant.

Greene's first publicised work, Bab-

bling April, a book of poems print-

undergraduate. A good copy would

now realise £3,000-£5,000 at auction.

However, first editions of his post-

war books may be secured for under

£100. Martin Amis's first book of The

lished in the 1970s, would realise

around £200 if in top condition. How-

ever, as his subsequent books are

printed in such huge numbers, a first

edition has no commercial value as

a collectors' piece - of course they

have the nominal value as a second-

lowing the work being held as "not

morally sound". In its original dust-

jacket, it sold for £5,175 - without, it

The presence of a dust-jacket

20th century first edition at Sothe-

would have realised £300-£500.

caused incredible demand for one

hand book

Rachel Papers, which was pub-

This can be illustrated by Graham

may become part of the canon of pop-

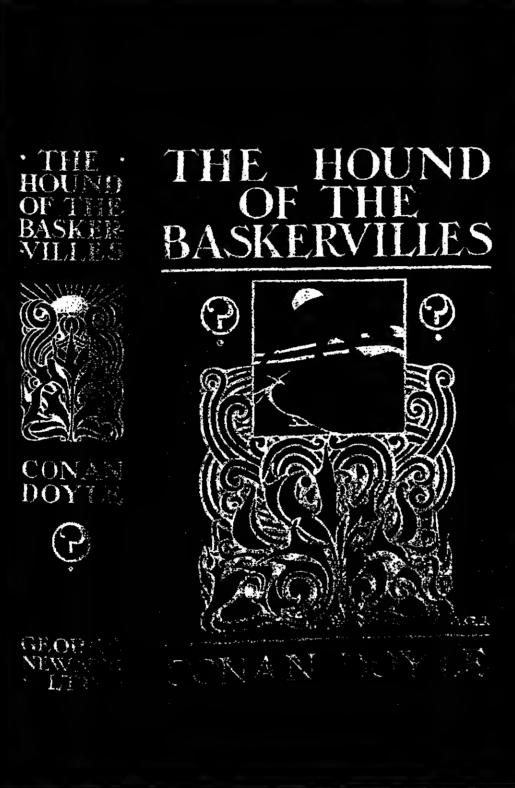
The greatest demand is for es-

condition, sold for £862.

would not sell.

A growing number of collectors are focusing on first editions of famous writers. An early copy with its dust-jacket may be worth a lot, as John Andrew discovers

lthough in most peoples' minds the phrase "first Your first edition" conjures up an image of a leather-bound volume of some age, modern books can be worth a small fortune and they certainly do not have to be bound in leather. However, do not build up your fortune hopes, as not every first printing or special edition is valuable. Nicholas Worskett of Christie's South Kens-



This edition sold to a US collector for the incredible amount of £80,700. The only other copy is in the Bodleian

Condition is of paramount importance where modern first editions by's last month. Sir Arthur Conan are concerned. Collectors seek ex-Doyle's The Hound of the amples in pristine condition and it Baskervilles published in 1902 sold is difficult to obtain a decent price to a US collector for a staggering £80,700, which is a record for a modfor a volume that is in mediocre conern first edition with its dust-jacket. dition - unless of course, it is ex-The only other known copy with its tremely rare. The presence of an original wrapper is in the Bodleian at Oxford. Had a copy been sold withoriginal dust-jacket considerably enhances a book's value. For example, in May Christie's sold a first out its dust-jacket, it would have realised £2,000-£3,000. printing of DH Lawrence's The Rainbow, published in 1915. Most of the 2,500 copies were destroyed fol-

As an original dust-jacket can dra-matically multiply a book's value, it makes sound sense to be careful with those on the books you already have and to treat those on the first editions of minor authors which you buy new with the greatest respect. The reason that dust-jackets considerably enhance the value of older

As an original dust-jacket can dramatically lift a book's value, it makes sense to be careful with those on the books

you already have

hooks - to the extent that they are worth more than the book itself - is that at one stage it was unfashionable to retain a book's jacket. Some are also rarer than others because of the delicate or fragile paper used. For this reason, dust jackets to Ronald Firbank's novels and Beatrix Potter's stories are either un-

known or excessively rare. The condition of the dust-jacket is also very important. Minor tears are not welcome, but may be accepted by collectors. Even so, the dightest of imperfections can decrease values by 10 per cent or more. Badly worn jackets are completely discounted and such books are valued at the same price as a

Children's books can also be worth a fortune. The highest price for a 20th century first edition in this category is £63,250, achieved at Sotheby's in May 1994 for a volume of The Tale of Peter Rabbit. The copy was given by the author to Zipporah Robinson, a member of the domestic staff at her grandfather's Hertfordshire home. It carries the inscription, "For Zipporah from Beatrix Potter, Christmas 1901". It is one of 250 copies Miss Potter had printed herself after the story was rejected by several publishers, including Frederick Warne who published subsequent editions of this and her other stories. In November, Sotheby's is to offer a fine first edition of Wind In The Willows in its original dust-jacket. It is estimated at £10,000-£15,000.

Inscriptions can greatly enhance a book's value. A first edition of Cosino Royale dedicated to "M" and signed by Ian Fleming sold at auction in 1989 for £5,500. The volume was contained in a morocco leather slip case, but otherwise it did not differ from any other first edition of the work. A copy of Live and Let Die inscribed to "Clemmy from Winston" has sold for nearly £6,000, whereas a first edition without any inscription. but in its original dust-jacket, would sell for less than £100.

With certain authors their signature on the fly-leaf can quadruple the value of a first edition. However, generalisations can be misleading. Such a premium would not be forthcoming if the author signed a high proportion of his or her work. The recent popularity of book-signings, linked to the fact that the print runs of the book are high, means that it is unlikely in the foreseeable future that current popular works signed by their authors will be of commercial value on the secondary market.

First editions can cost as much as a Rolls Royce, or as little as a train fare. Collecting them is fun because items are available to suit all pockets. So, how does one go about collecting modern first editions? First it is necessary to decide which au-thors to collect. There is little point in acquiring books which do not appeal to you. When you have drawn up a short list of your favourite writers, go to your local library and obtain a bibliography of each author. This will list every work he or she has published, together with the date of each edition. Alternatively obtain a copy of Copolly's Modern First Editions which is published by Little logical listing of each author's novel together with an indication of values.

Some larger libraries have volumes of the Book Auction Records which are published annually. These will not only give an indication of the prices at which particular titles sell., but also serve as a useful guide as to the frequency at which certain books appear at auction. It is well worthwhile obtaining a copy of the monthly Book and Magazine Collector and to attend auction views. It is far better to treat all collecting as a hobby. If the volumes you secure do increase in value, that is an added bonus to the pleasure you derive from searching for and owning

Christie's South Kensington will be including books in its James Bond sale on 17 September. A 1954 first edition of Live and Let Die' is expected to sell for £150-£250 with its dust

Sotheby's is holding a sale of chil-dren's books on 10 November Christie's South Kensington will fea ture modern first editions in its book sale of 20 November including works by Conrad, Durrell, Golding, Lawrence and Wodehouse

Direct route for your insurance

FIRST DIRECT believes there will be an explosion in our use of computers to manage our money over the next decade. According to Morì research conducted for the bank, within 10 years more than a third of all current account holders in the UK, nearly 12 million people, expect to use the Internet or similar technology to arrange their fi-To put that forecast in

perspective, fewer than one per cent do so at the moment. The survey also showed that 13 per cent of current account holders already have access to the Internet, up from 5 per cent in 1996. First Direct's own PC Banking service does not operate over the Internet but instead uses its own private network. Separately, Eagle Star

Direct reckons that sales of "cyber insurance" – insurance cover bought over the Internet - will increase by 260 per cent over the next 18 months. This sounds far too exact a forecast to be taken seriously. However, it has to be said that, with the number of Internet connections steadily rising, Eagle Star Direct is surely correct in assuming some significant increase in such It is on this hasis that

the company has extended the range of insurance it offers on the World Wide Web to include home and contents cover, adding to its existing motor and travel insurance websites. In fact, Eagle Star Direct's motor insurance site has received more than 100,000 request for quotations in its first 10 months.

As with the other sites, you may purchase home and contents cover directly and immediately, 24 hours a day, through payment hy credit or debit card, completing the online application form. The site is interactive, allowing you to select your own preferred level of cover. Demonstrating why

Eagle Star Direct expects more husiness on the Internet, the company is offering anybody purchasing their home and contents insurance from the site a 10 per cent reduction in its standard premiums. A further discount of up to 10 per cent is on offer if your home passes certain security criteria. Full details of these are available on the However, Eagle Star Di-

rect was not the first to offer household insurance over the Internet. Earlier this year, Woolwich Insurance Services unveiled an online market search, select and buying system. The service provides realtime comparative household insurance quotations, as well as allowing you to huy a suitable policy on the



INTERNET INVESTOR ROBIN **AMLÔT**

Buying instant

insurance over the Internet offers clear benefits. There are fewer forms to fill in and the details are accurate

since e-commerce means there is no rekeying of the data

Woolwich Insurance Services claims that its online service allows you select the best policy for your particular requirements, rather than simply providing a price-based comparison. In fact, the service is exactly the same as that on offer in certain Woolwich branches.

Providing you are satisfied with their Internet quotation, the policy can be arranged by paying for the initial premium through an online credit card transaction. If however, you need personal assistance before you make your choice there is an option to be connected to a trained advisor to assist you during and transaction process.

Buying insurance direct over the Internet offers clear benefits to you as a consumer. Fewer forms need to be filled out by the customer and in turn, the e-commerce nature of the system ensures accuracy as well as speed, since information will no longer need to be filled in by hand and rekeyed by data entry

There is, of course, a concomitant downside to this. If there is a mistake in your policy details, you cannot hlame anyone else!

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Sideline cash to cushion setback

has been that it did not happen

Markets had actually been the 52nd floor of a hroker's enough. For one day at least. office are made, but significant oooetheless.

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ready known. So what actually made the difference?

It was a respected market trending down on both sides of commentator who called the the Atlantic for a little while. A turn. Ralph Acampora, equity correction of near 10 per cent strategist at Prudential Secuhad been achieved by the rities and a noted bull, forecast middle of the week - hardly the an "interruption to the hull sort of move of which dives from markets" - and that was you put this against a back-

The pressures in financial markets have been really quite It was all achieved with little remarkable. On the one hand fuss. The serious evidence - oobody denies that valuation

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THE ONLY surprising aspect of profit warnings, analysts' down- levels are extended. The sothis week's dip in share prices gradings, and so forth, were al- called "Goldilocks" economic situation in the US (neither too hot, nor too cold) has led to sustained growth without overheating.

Of itself this is enough to justify some rather more extravagant price levels than those hitherto acceptable. But when ground of lower inflation and low bood vields, it is oo wonder that people are prepared to pay more for equities. This situation is only exacerbated when supply is restricted by

share buybacks and takeovers. The most important single factor behind this sustained bull market, though, has been the build-up of cash. Money in the mutual fund industry in the US now exceeds that in the

banking system. If we need a model for stakeholder pensions in this country, we need look no further than ensure that any setback is met 401Ks and IRAs (tax-advantage pension plans in the US). The investment cash these have created, and the resultant cash flow while the market demand for shares, have helped keep the US market alight. Until recently that is!

The big questionmark is not so much what effect the implosioo of the Asian economies will have on global trade, but whether or oot this is of any relevance in terms of market pricing in the US and UK. In fact Asian investors are playing a surprisingly small part in the global money market scene. British holders of treasury bills now outnumber the Japanese.

Asians may have less money to spend, but they were only ever an important influence at the peripbery of more esoteric markets, like high-value central London property, for example. Indeed the problems in the Pacific Rim have, if anything, driven money into the supposedly safer havens of Europe and North America.

But we cannot get away from the fact that many com-



BRIAN TORA

panies will make less money as a result of the past year's turmoil on the other side of the world. We only have to look at Janan to realise what a hover's strike can mean - both in terms of consumer speoding and investment patterns.

At present there is sufficient money sitting on the sidelines here and in the US to by a healthy wave of buying, as those who raised money too early or delayed committing continued to rise seek to make their positions look better. We really do have to decide soon what the right price to pay for

financial assets should be. Nothing has happened yet to suggest that the system will break down, but there are potential happenings that are not beyond the scope of our imagination, and which could ensure investors run for cover. This government, needing to expand its borrowing requirements, is but one, although in the eod we all really dance to the tune of American markets.

Just for the present I think it is worth waiting to see wbether we really have seen the end of the current tremors. or whether the bad news that will surely continue, will translate into a share huyers' strike.

Brian Tora is the Chairman of the Greig Middleton Investment Strategy

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Superdogs that stray fall foul to trackers

VIRGIN DIRECT has just issued its annual "Premier League of Pep Superdogs," and it includes funds run by housebold names such as Standard Life, Friend's Provident and Equitable Life.

If completetion is before 30.4.98
 All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01603 476478 6 August 1990

Superdogs are defined by Virgin as those funds underperforming average returns for their respective sectors year periods. In other words, says Virgin, these funds have managed to let Pep investors down - whether they invested at the beginning, in the middle or only recently.

As you might expect, Virgin recommends its own tracker "Growth Pep" as an alternative. But Gordon Maw, Virgin Direct's marketing manager, argues; "This is not just a marketing ploy. The real issue is that of active-versuspassive fund management. Our Pep is a tracker fund, passively managed to follow the FT-SE All Share Index - and we think it gives better value tomost investors than an actively managed fund.

"Many of the claims made on behalf of active fund Pep over the last 12 months. managers are just hokum. Investors pay high charges to buy into these funds, but few if any of the fund managers can do consistently better than a tracker fund following the Ali Share Index."

Not everyone agrees, however. Last year Virgin inc-"Growth & Income" and "In- market risk. come Plus" in their Superdog League – not long after Tom McCarron took over as head fund manager for both funds.

anyone switched on Virgin's value, but falls or can't decide recommendation," says Mr - then these tracker funds will McCarron. "These funds had mimic this behaviour. lagged, but since last year they've improved a very great vestors are going to realise deal. In fact, 'Growth & just how risky a tracker fund Income is now third in its can be."

Virgin's 'Premier League' is a match of active funds against passive, argues Iain Morse



Richard Branson's Virgin recommends its own Pep

sector, while 'Income Plus' comes seventh." Fidelity says both would

have beaten Virgin's Tracker "The problem with tracker funds is that investors going into them over the last few years think they are risk-

free," observes Mr McCarron, "but that simply isn't true. Trackers have no index riskthey move with a particular index of share values like that huded two funds from Fidelity All-Share - but they do carry

"If a particular market, measured by an index on which a tracker is based, goes bearish or turbulent - that's "I can only say I'm sorry if to say, it stops just rising in

"At that point a lot of m-

between different Pep providers without loss of the tax relief. The management charges levied on these funds alone make "switching" a lucrative battleground. Anthony Yadgarof, wbo runs the Pep broker Alleobridge, argues: "All these

Virgin is not the only Pep

provider to use a past

performance league table as

a means of persuading Pep

has published an annual

"Spot The Dog Guide" for

is the more than £22bn that in-

vestors have locked up in ex-

Peps are abolished on 5 April

pext year, and replaced by the

Individual Savings Account

(ISA). existing Peps will stay

Remember, even wheo

several years.

turn sour".

isting Peps.

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01608 476476

scare tactics are aimed at getting you to transfer, either to a tracker Pep or to an alternative managed fund "Anyone tempted should be very careful of what all of this can cost, and whether they are receiving adequate financial advice in the process. Virgin's main interest is that you switch out of a Pep held in any one of several sectors - say UK Income & Growth, or UK Smaller Companies - into a

Pep rules allow an existing

plan to be switched within the

qualifying funds of a particu-

lar manager, or to be switched

chalk and cheese." Virgin is offering those who switch into their Growth Pep an inducement - "by paying owners to switch their the transfer penalty on behalf holdings. Best Investment of the customer" - but in reality this is not worth much if anything to many tempted

by their offer. Jason Hollands, a Best The real cost of making a spokesman, sees trouble Pep transfer lies in any "bid ahead for trackers and thinks to offer spread" imposed on that we should "aim to spot the Pep fund. This represents good teams of active fund the difference between the managers who will do better price at which you buy units than the market when things from a fimd manager and the price at which they are The real prize behind much redeemed by the manager if of this aggressive marketing

you encash your holding. Most retail unit trust Peps carry a hid to offer spread of between 3 and 5 per cent. So if you are transferring a plan "worth", say, £7,000, with a bid to offer spread of five per cent, the real cost amounts to £350, with a net transfer value

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# Working to unwritten rules

Just because you do not have a contract does not mean you are stripped of all rights as an employee. By Ian Hunter

oes the lack of a written contract of employment mean that an employee's only security is the quality of his or her last piece or work? You could be forgiven for thinking that this was the case. In fact the reality can be somewhat different

Every employee - whether he or she works part-time or full-time, for a fixed period or in a job-share arrangement - has certain rights. And these rights exist regardless of whether the employee has a piece

of paper to prove it. The absence of a written contract does not mean that there is no contractual relationship. Employers and employees still have certain implied legal rights and obligations.

The employer's obligations include the following: the duty to pay salary; to provide a safe workplace; and to act reasonably. The employee has corresponding duties, which include such things as honesty, competence and loyalty.

Employees have additional rights that are guaranteed by legislation one of the most important is that most employees have the right to statutory sick pay. Female employees, moreover, have varying maternity rights that depend on their length of service. Employees are also protected against unlawful deductions from salary, as well as discrimination on the grounds of race, sex and disability.

Employees do, by law, have a right to receive a statement that sets out the main terms of their employment within two months of starting work. This statement must include such details such as rates of pay, place of work, job title and holiday pay. There is one major problem with this, however - an employer is not subject to any financial sanction for failing to comply.

The extent of financial protection afforded to employees on instant dismissal is in large part dictated by the length of notice period to which they are entitled. The lack of a written contract does not mean all is lost for

cases far from it. There is legislation that provides minimum notice period regardless



Unlike galley slaves, employees have rights laid down in law, even if there is no written contract of employment. Managers could find the law makes dismissal quite expensive

Nource: Micronal/ LGIM. on an offer to bid basis based on all PEP change

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tied to one week's notice; thereafter they are entitled to one week's notice for each completed year of employment - up to a maximum of

12 weeks. However, employees who do not have a written contract can, as an alternative, argue that they are entitled to "reasonable notice". This notice period is determined by such factors as the industry norm for every employee with the right to a someone of their status. For example, a solicitor might be able to of whether or not they have a writ- argue for a three-month notice dismissed without notice and justi-

years' service, employees are enti- exchange may be able to establish a case for a two-year notice period. The length of the notice period is

important, because the starting point for calculating damages is a sum equal to the net salary and value of fringe benefits (such as pension contributions or the use of a car) that the employee would have received during the notice period. The employees are under a duty to attempt to minimise their loss by finding al-

ternative employment. In other words, if an employee is better than the job he or she has just not they have a written contract. lost, the claim for compensation under the contract will be reduced to zero. Even if employees do not have written contracts stipulating their salary and perks, they can still show by way of wage slips, pension statements and similar documents the benefits to which they are entitled to receive when it comes to

calculating damages. In addition to contractual rights, all employees who have completed more than two years' continuous employment have a right - provided by on written contracts) may be comten contract. This legislation pro- period, while the chairman of a fication and the following day se- statute - not to be unfairly menced in the courts up to six years made up of two parts: the basic Employment', which will be pubvides that, until the completion of two company that is traded on the stock cures a job which pays as well or dismissed, regardless of whether or from the date of dismissal. award, subject to a maximum of lished in early September

This two-year qualifying period is currently being challenged in the European Court and may, depending on its decision, be reduced. The Government has, in any event, made a commitment in its White Paper entitled Fairness at Work to reduce

this qualifying period to one year. Claims in respect of unfair dismissal must usually be submitted to an industrial tribunal within three months of dismissal. Contractual claims by contrast (including claims

Contractual claims can be heard in the industrial tribunal, provided that they are submitted within the three-month time limit. Although there is no requirement in these circumstances for the employee to have completed two years' continuous employment prior to submitting a claim, the tribunal only has the power to award compensation up to a maximum of £25,000. It is for this reason that larger contractual claims are usually pursued in the

High Court. Unfair dismissal compensation is the outhor

between £110 and £330 for each year of employment depending on age, and the compensatory award, subject to a maximum of £12,000. Under proposals set out in Fairness at Work, this limit may be removed altogether. What all this means is that em-

ployers may find dismissal a more expensive business in the future.

The writer is a partner and employment law specialist with City law firm Bird & Bird. He is also of the Which? Guide to

# Market uncertainty makes the future bright for gold

The central banks may be selling, but sales of coins to individuals are on the rise. Sovereigns and krugerrands are in, says John Andrew

INONICALLY AT a time when bankers are dismissing the traditional view of gold being an asset of last resort and a haven against inflation, the European Union has passed a directive removing VAT from investments in gold, which includes bullion coins. After five years of discussions, this was made possible last month when Italy withdrew its formal objection. It is not anticipated that the UK legislation will become effective until January 2000, however.

ackers

It is also ironical at a time when central banks are selling their gold reserves, that small investors are buying gold coins. Sandra Ferguson of Spink's bullion department is noting a steady increase in the number of sales to individuals. "Most give the reason for buying as uncertainty. They consider the stock market is high, are worried about the crisis in Asia and are not sure of the impact of the euro." Some also consider gold to be cheap, as this week it was selling at around \$287 per ounce, which is only just above its 18-year low of \$283 reached in December 1997.

The two most popular buys are the British sovereign and the South African krugerrand. The sovereign is 22-carat gold and its pure gold content is 0.2354 troy ounces. Krugerrands are also 22 carat, but their pure gold content is exactly one troy ounce. In small quantities, sovereigns were selling for £49 each this week, but the price falls to £48 for orders over 50 coins. Krugerrands were retaining for £191, with the unit price falling marginally for larger orders.

Although bullion coins will be exempt from VAT next century, this will only result in a slight reduction in the price investors will pay. This is because despite VAT being imposed on bullion coins in April 1982 - a move that in effect discouraged trade in the material for individuals - a 1995 EU di-



From next year, there will be no VAT on investments in gold

rective gave dealers the option to sell any second-hand item worth less than £500 without collecting VAT on the retail price.

If the item is made from precious metal, it has to be sold above the market value of its metal content. Bullion coins such as sovereigns and krugerrands fall into this category providing that they are not newly minted, or have been imported from outside the EU. Dealers pay the tax on the difference between cost to them and the price at which the coin is sold. Of course, next century when VAT is entirely removed, the spread be-tween buying and selling prices

The recent increase in demand for the coins has resulted in a shortage of material in the market. Sellers are currently rehictant to part with bullion coins at these price levels. However, whereas in the past sellers would probably receive the spot gold price or even a sum just fractionally below, they now receive a premium. For example, this week Spink was offering £42 for a single sovereign, a coin with an intrinsic value at the spot gold

price of about £41. The 16 per cent spread of £7 on the retail price includes just over £1 in VAT and, of course, handling charges.

While the offer-bid spread is high compared to traditional financial investments such as unit trusts, the fact remains that bullion coins are still the cheapest way for the individual to secure gold. Gold jewellery or accessories retail new at several multiples of the intrinsic value of their gold content. The manufacturers' costs and mark-up as well as the wholesalers' and retailers' profit result in the actual value of the gold being

a fraction of the retail price.

Buying gold jewellery or objects on the second-hand market. will narrow the gap, but it is the less aesthetically pleasing pieces that sell for the lowest mark-up above the gold value. However, should you follow this route, do buy from a reputable dealer as all that glisters is not gold.

If you want to buy more gold for your money then the best

course is bullion coins as opposed.

to collectors' coins marketed to

consumers by the world's mints.

For example, the Royal Mint is

Currently marketing freshly mint-

ed 1998 proof sovereigns for £149 -exactly £100 more than the "old" currency sovereign. That is a large premium for a coin that is identical apart from the date and the fact it is struck from polished dies, resulting in a mirrorlike surface.

Of course, the big question is, is it worth buying gold when the work's central banks are selling? With large sales of the metal overhanging the market, there are those who regard gold as the metal that no one wants. However, there are others who are more optimistic. The demand for gold in fabrication – that is for jewellery, dentistry and industrial use -rose last year by 14 per cent to 3,750 tonnes. This compares to new gold mined of 2,400 tonnes

during the same period. The gap between new metal to the market and current consumption could widen as mines that are uneconomic at the present bullion price close. The optimists maintain that if demand increases, the long-term outlook for the metal could be bright.

Spink's bullion department may be contacted on 0171 747 6853

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| ### Processes 675 No. 0 0 99 it 96 is 155 ### \$100 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | RemarkSetsConfigureD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| ## 25 Control of Plane   1/2   500   5   1/2 00   127 61   11   198 nc   1977   500   21   9   525 1   16   16   12   12   12   12   12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | GentromeEur 0594 1000 251 251.71 12153 95 Scot/microbauponess 0591 1020 77 48 18 56.97 82 Scot/microbauponess 0591 1020 77 48 18 56.97 82 Scot/microbauponess 11485 500 00 8284 154 18 18 Scot/microbauponess 11485 500 10 48 40 71 18 11 Scot/microbauponess 11485 500 00 8284 154 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Construction   Cons                                                                                                                                                           | Scoretistic Principle   Section       |
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| Contraction                                                                                                                                                              | Auditoriorioriorist   1195   1000   6   188   10   1386   84   Barrightmelite   1000   70   28840   1284   4   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1284   1    |
| PART                                                                                                                                                              | Ethiconeirs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| SCHOOL   10   10   10   10   10   10   10   1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ### StandCareFull                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Schrophysics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Tolograficered   1090   1000   70   399   10   177 0   25   FeV. (SSPRICO)   1090   27   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   1090   1090   71   71   71   71   71   71   71   7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Federal Conference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Non-schlards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ### 10-25   19-2   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25   19-2   25                                                                                                                                                           | #Properior (1977)   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   1978   197  |
| UK Equity Income  ###################################                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Residencies Can   1688   200   188   2012   1808   5   General Particular   1678   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1002   1    |
| #25 - 1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997)   1997 (1997                                                                                                                                                         | Schroderfun3th   1083 1030 389 15154 12555 105   STUSSIN   17775 1000 A1 304 10 1774 54   54   55   55   55   55   55   5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| ### 150 months                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Scortinatatifus   Sept.   Se    |
| UK Gile    Constitution   Constituti                                                                                                                                                         | Silaments/Euriam/Pag   12-99   1930   231   1898 03.   12-16   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   175   1    |
| ### 1997   1998   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999   1999                                                                                                                                                          | Sunt Not Care Care Care Care Care Care Care Care                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| FerringSolvation(Collection   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50   1.50                                                                                                                                                            | ATIGN:   11/50   1000   9   14824   152.7   12   Mexcapylymin   12/50   1000   20   14/50   1000   12/50   1000   1000   12/50   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000   1000    |
| Companies   Comp                                                                                                                                                           | 20000-079-079-079-079-079-079-079-079-079                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Main Conference   Main Confe                                                                                                                                                           | State at Earlier   1886   1000   11   80.97   122   51   52   52   53   54   57   58   58   58   58   58   58   58                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 1.00   35   35.94   680   74   75   75   75   75   75   75   75                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10   10   10   10   10   10   10   10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Extracyprised corp. 000 17 5474 5436 3 September 25 5476 548 54 September 25 5476 54 Septembe  |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Pro-Colomoral Agricultural 5   1150 500000   1   150 100000   1   150 100000   1   150 100000   1   150 100000   1   150 1000000   1   150 1000000   1   150 1000000   1   150 10000000   1   150 10000000000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Guestiniffication (1997) 1000 8 57 60 44.97 45 Emerging Markets 111.72 144 South-developed (1779) 102.03 89 102.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03 103.03  |
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| ************************************                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | #WESCOSCONIESTA 1261 1000 24 89.08 42.03 59 Cholardor-Energible Chronic Chroni  |
| Second Column   Second Colum                                                                                                                                                           | Linguistation   1081   1000   24   129 8) 55 5 38   Strainfordimentalistic   1292   500   18   40.85   57 4 37   57 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1006Mass/haser/Laserd   10969   500   4   2943   332   60   1004   1008   1008   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   1009   100    |
| 10   10   10   10   10   10   10   10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | \$\frac{927}{5000}\frac{1}{1000} \frac{1}{100} \frac{1}{100} \frac{1}{10} \frac{1}{1 |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Sconkhaud-fritzern 11/61 500 52 97 67 45.97 28 SchooterSchollerogless 09:93 1000 178 42.99 39:22 35 control fritzern 11/61 500 52 52.09 40.12 67 SchooterScholl 07:00 45 16:61 36:77 41 Schoolerschollerogless 09:00 45 16:61 36:77 41 Schoolerscholl  |
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Even if you have a partner, it pays to think of yourself as a 'single financial entity'. By Jane Slade and Maisha Frost

# Mortgage options for single people

money is concerned. According to statistics, many people are doing this already, but independent financial advisers say rising divorce rates have persuaded them to surance, for example." advise clients - even if they marry - to think of themselves as "single financial entities" all their lives.

Mortgage lenders, too, recognise that the singles market cannot be ignored, with a projected one in every three people living alone by 2000. They also recognise that the needs of single people are different from those who are married. The problem is what to offer them. "No mortgage is hranded specif-

ically for single people," says Ian Darby, of the independent mortgage advisers John Charcol, "But their considerations are distinctly different from those who are married. The kind of mortgage they take - fixed, capped or variable-rate largely depends on the individual's circumstances. Single people's sit-uations are more fluid and they have fewer ties. But where single people do differ from married people is in their choice of associated protection policies."

"When people get married they have a lot of confidence about the future, as it has a definite shape," says Phillip Cartwright, director of London & Country Mortgages. "The future of single people is more open, as they may not stay alone for ever."

semi-strached, you financial adviser Fiona Price, of could be better off think-Fiona Price and Partners, specialing single as far as your ists in advising women. "You have different considerations if you are single. If you are seeking a mortgage and are not intending to have a family, then you will not need life as-

Even if you do have a family, life assurance is not always necessary, even though lenders may persuade you otherwise. Sarah Pryor, a lawyer, who is a divorced mother of two, has an interest-only mortgage. She argues: "If I die, the capital is covered by my Pep [investments] and my children would be taken care of by my ex-husband. Life assurance is not necessary because it would not benefit me or my children."

Even so, singles need some kind of income protection, particularly if there is no other source of financial support. "You would need to think about taking out insurance to protect your income, such as critical illness cover or personal health insurance - particularly if you are self-employed," says Ms Price.
"Even if you are employed, the company may pay out for only six months, so you need to check this and see if you need to top it up. If you can't afford insurance, then the next best option is to save enough money to cover yourself for three months'

expenditure in case of emergencies." In a society that predicts that pen if they are ill or unemployed. most of us will be self-employed or The fear of being left in dire straits in contract employment in the futseems to be greater," he says. "So ure, single people would appear they ask more questions, and are "Children consume a lot of even more vulnerable by going it psychologically more vulnerable."



alone with a mortgage. Mr Cartwright says that single people tend to worry more about what will hap-

Women top the bill in this department. "Single women go through every detail and get overly stressed," he adds. "Single men are more free and easy and relaxed." "Fixed-rate mortgages are more popular with single and gay people, provided there are no tie-ins," says

which has a large number of gay clients, reports that many have difficulties in securing income protection for their mortgages. "On the other hand, we have found that some companies are more favourable towards gay people, because there aren't likely to be children involved," Mr Dickinson says. The most suitable mortgages for

single heterosexual and gay people are those which combine flexibility with security - ones where repayments will not change (fixed rate) or will not exceed a fixed limit (capped rate). Interest-only Pep mortgages are more flexible than endowments because there are lower penalties if they are cashed in early.

Alan Dickinson, senior partner at in-

dependent financial advisers Ivan

Massow Associates. This company,

Naomi Benstead, 29, a single London solicitor has taken out a four-year capped-rate mortgage with Halifax at 6.8 per cent to buy a monthly amount she would have to two-bedroom flat in Crouch End. "I chose this over a fixed-rate because projections are that interest rates may fall if we join the euro, in which case my payments would also drop,"

# MORTGAGE DEALS

THOUGH NO UK lender is branding 429429) - fixed rate and cash-back a mortgage product specifically for singles, it is worth checking out the

London & Country Mortgages

(0800 373300) - 6.49 per cent capped rate mortgage until September 2000; no penalty or mortgage indemnity guarantee Hallfax (0800 101110) - four-year capped rates and discount

Portman Building Society (0800 807080) — cashback and no acceptance fees mortgages; Home Mortgage (0118 939 3 Cheisea Building Society (0800 Virgin Direct (0345 900900)

for first-time buyers; 5 per cent cashback mortgage with no arrangement fee for older borrowers; Cheltenham & Gloucester (01452

372372) - capped and fixed-rate mortgages; no mortgage indemnity premium, valuation fee, or insurance

Ivan Massow Associates (0171-631 1111); Fiona Price and Partners (0171-430 0366); John Charcol (0171-611 7000); Bank of Ireland Home Mortgage (0118 939 3393);

## **ALL SINGLES SHOULD:**

■ Keep future options open and look for mortgage offers with no redemption penalties or indemnity premiums. ■ Consider capped, then fixed or discount packages. ■ Whether on staff with a pension, or self-employed, check that adequate payment protection and health insurance covers sickness, accident and redundancy and permanent

■ Be wary of taking life assurance - it may well be ■ Go for a portable mortgage: opt for one that allows a breathing space after leaving one place and buying another. ■ Look for lifestyle payment breaks, such as interest

month maternity breaks. Young, single, first-timers:

Go for reduced payment options - allowing more cash to fund extras such as holidays. ■ Demonstrate the ability to budget - young singles are often seen as irresponsible. Older, recently divorced or the bereaved: Find a repayment mortgage.

at tax payment time and nine-

It will probably be too late to get the benefits of an interest only/endowment one. ■ Shop around for extra finance to buy out another party - don't be put off by the three times one income lending criteria. Equity from a previous home will help.

■ Look for good cash-back deals to absorb extra legal fees.

staying with the Halifax afterwards on their variable rate, and the penalty payments are reduced on a slid-

holidays for the self-employed

ing scale after two years if I need to II. I have attracted other benefits, too, because I am a first-time buyer." Naomi wanted the security of knowing precisely the maximum

According to a survey by the insurance firm Prudential, the fastestgrowing category of households is formed by single people living alone. This is borne out by Bank of Ireland, which reports that 40 per cent of its mortgages over the past year have been taken out by single people. A bank spokesman says: "We are in the process of devising a maternity op-tion mortgage with a nine-month payment holiday built in, which we hope will be attractive to single and married women who are planning to

# Prepare for divorce from the start

given on joint mortgages.

"You should look at a mortgage as two halves - independent and complementary," advises Fiona Price. "Your half could be linked to an endowment and your spouse/partner could have a straightforward repayment." half intact.

surveyor, decided to take out an interest-only joint mortgage when she ment is also useful if both parties straight repayment."

downents, so it made sense to do that on a one-year fixed rate of 4.99 per cent with the Bank of Ireland,"

Suzanna paid the entire deposit for the property and asked her solicitor to draw up a deed of covenant in case the couple sepa-Should the partnership turn sour, rated. This meant there would be each can walk away with their own no argument about who contributed what to the home, and each's Suzanna Mansfield, a chartered entitlement should they split.

GLOOMY DIVORCE statistics are afbought her home with her partner, are contributing unequal monthly fecting the independent advice John, five years ago. "I had ensume toward the mortgage." Many financial advisers avoid

broaching the subject of a marriage ending, but as the independent financial adviser Ray Boulger, of John Charcol, explains: "If they don't take the plunge and are living together, then we tend to advise keeping finances separate."

Darren Stevens, of the Chelsea Building Society, advises: "If you want to really protect yourself and decide to take out a mortgage with This tenants-in-common docu- someone else, it is best to opt for a

Single people buying together should also be mindful that if their names are not listed first on the mortgage form, they could lose out on extra benefits such as reward bonuses or shares offered by the

After a year with Bank of Ireland, Suzanna and John decided to move their mortgage to a two-year fixed rate with Alliance and Leicester. Because they continued after the twoyear period, the company gave them some shares which went to John because he was first named on the mortgage.

pay and the flexibility of knowing that she would not be penalised heavily if her situation changed. She also has the option of taking a lodger to help pay her mortgage, and can receive

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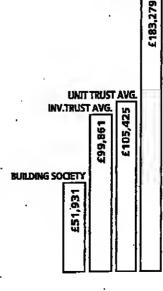
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FAST FOOD is booming in France, chicken tikka is Britain's most popular dish. and the world's most successful McDonald's "restaurant", apparently, is Food bas crossed borders

- and it's the same with clothes and cars. Not that many years ago. British saloons were

upright, formal in style, and inherently genteel. German cars were solid

and slightly stolid. Italian cars looked fabulous but quickly went to pieces. French cars were stylish.

odd and rarely did well away from home. American cars were big and mostly had an

unpretentious design hooesty. In the car world, some generalisations still bold true. But the edges are getting

very blurred. In food and clothes, it is the Americans who have dominated fad and fashion. and who set the international agenda.

in cars, over the past few years at any rate, it has been the Germans (in Europe) and the Japanese (everywhere

The new Renault Clio looks like the (German-designed) Vauxhall Corsa and drives in a solid, slightly beavy-footed Volkswagen manner.

Equally Citroens and Peugeots mostly have a Germanic conservativism to their styling, with little of the quirkiness or wilfulness that once used to distinguish French cars.

Fiats went through a rather bland, anonymous phase back in the late Eightles and early Nineties, And British and Spanish cars have lost their idiosyncrasies as much as they've lost their national

This is hardly surprising. as all current-Rovers are based on Japanese Hondas and Seats are now engineered and made in Germany.

Volvos now look like every other car, rather than like the motoring equivalent of a Russian shot-putter, and Saab - arguably once the builder of the quirkiest European cars of all - is now part of General Motors, the world's most conservative car company.

A few years back most cars came out of a bland international melting pot of market-researched anonymity. Same-again styling was a disease which affected all companies from all countries.

But whereas the bamburger-and-jeans invasion of the world continues, in cars there are some encouraging signs of manufacturers rediscovering their pasts - even if, in Rover's case, it has been the Germans who have made them build proper British

curs again. Upcoming new models from Jaguar and Rover - both due to be unveiled at this October's Birmingham Show

- will use styling cues from older cars. Both the new Royer 75 and the new Jaguar S-type will use curvaceous,



## **GAVIN GREEN**

The days of the world car are at an end. The Germans may own Rover, but even the Brits are rediscovering their Britishness, just like the French and the Italians, too

upright design, in the classic British manner. And it isn't just the Brits who are rediscovering their genes. In Italy, the

renaissance is already under Ironically it was begun by

an American, Fiat's former design boss Chris Bangle, now at BMW. Bangle gave the world the

amazing Fiat Coupé, a car whose body language could only have come from Italy. The Fiat Punto is another classically Italian piece of design brilliance: ditto the

new Fiat Bravo hatchback. The French have talented designers, but they have recently lost sight of their Frenchness.

This is about to change. Rensult will show a new luxury car at this September's Paris Show which in the words of Renault's design chlef Patrick Le Quément, "is France's rediscovery of the art of building distinctive big

saloons. Peugeot and Citroen, now emboldened by new management, are also about to strut their Frenchness once more.

Citroën has been given the green light to be individual again, after too many years of timidity.

Even the Yanks want to be more Yank. Ford's new design chief, J Mays, in a gentle snub to his predecessor's "world car" philosophy, wants to make US Fords more different from European

"European Fords will be stylish. design-led and very distinctive.

"US Fords need to be tough, bonest and unpretentious - just like our pick-up trucks," be said. Just as the car business

becomes more and more international - with Volkswagen building Bentleys, BMW making Rovers and GM running the Saab works - so the car makers will return to their. roots to try to make more distinctive and more attractive cars.

# The Korean A-to-Z of all cubist cars

John Simister explains why the young machismo male would fight shy of a drive



The spirited Hyundai Atoz is surprisingly supple. With light and accurate steering, it keeps its composure on B roads, and that precarious feeling never emerges

THIS CAR looks daft. It's simply a box on wheels - a fact which no number of feature lines and curvy details can disguise.

I have been driving a Hyundai Atoz+ (A-to-Z, get it?) painted in a vivid metallic green, and I have been letting pink Suzuki Vitaras out of side turnings on the basis that even they don't look quite as daft as my mode of transport.

A young, fashionable, machismoconscious male colleague was scared to drive the Atoz in case any I find myself quite liking this strange mutation from South Korea?

Maybe it's because it conforms to oo known stereotype - it's a sort of automotive Year Zero - and because its ambience is so wholeheartedly non-aggressive. This is a new kind of car, tiny but roomy, and styled (sort of).

There is also the Daihatsu Move, and the Suzuki Wagon R, true, but both are even squarer in shape, lacking the attempt at combining curve with cube that gives the Atoz a new direction.

All are cheap; all promise new beights of space-efficiency. There is, however, a flaw in the argument. Extra space is all very well, but if it is of little real use unless you are on your way to a convention of wizards and witches.

In addition the Atoz, like the Move, is hopeless at providing decent legroom for its driver. Your road-tester is 5ft 6in tall (which, according to data from Mercedes-Benz, makes him a 50th-percentile northern European human being, if we disregard the issue of gender) and the driver's seat does not go back far enough.

The result is an aching thigh and an even more aching ankle. The steering wheel is set ludicrously high, too. However, if the of his friends saw him. So, why did seat went back any further, there wouldn't be any room for the

> passenger behind. Now, some facts. The Atoz has a little 1.0-litre engine; its body is about 9in shorter than that of a typical supermini (Polo, 106); its rear seats fold forward in a "doubletumble" to create a big load space;

and it costs £6,999. Alternatively you can buy the Atoz+ version, which adds a driver's airbag, alloy wheels, a cassette player (the base version has merely a simple radio), central locking, electric front windows, air-conditioning and front fog lamps, all of which is

a good £1,000-worth. Beyond that, you can have a clutchless transmission for £470, or is all in the vertical direction then it a full-blown automatic gearbox for

nuance of plot in *The Archers*. For all that, though, the Atoz is £699. Power steering is standard. surprisingly lively, and it doesn't run out of puff on hills as readily as you might expect—even though that bhiff The car I have been testing is an Atoz+ automatic. Its transmission

**SPECIFICATIONS** Specifications or three-speed automatic, front-

Prices: from £6,999 (Atoz) to £8,698 (Atoz+ auto) Engine: 999cc. four cylinders, 12 valves, 55bhp at 5,500rpm.

Transmission: five-speed manual

wheel drive.

(automatic).

too van-like:

Performance: 88mph, 0-60 in

14.7sec, 40-45mpg (manual), 85mph, 0-60 in 19.3sec, 34-39mpg

Fiat Seicento S: £6,750. Cheap-

est of the new-look micro-Fiats.

and feels it. Has many neat de-

space and pace to work as a vi-

Suzuki Wagon R+ GA: £7,425.

Move-shaped, but higger, with an Atoz-sized 1.0-litre engine

(which is about to be enlarged).

Roomy and practical, but a little

sign details, and sufficient

Daewoo Matiz: Price to be announced. On sale shortly. It has a three-cylinder engine, and looks a little like a five-door Renault Twingo. The cutest'of

Daihatsu Move: £7,200. Smaller, slower, squarer and more turbulent than Atoz, but likeable for its low price and visual wackiness. A 2CV for the

has only three gears, so the little engine is revving its head off when

front has a lot of air to push aside. The next pleasant surprise concerns the ride comfort.

you're lolloping along the motorway. A lot of road roar rushes into the Unlike the Daihatsu Move, which cabin on a coarse surface, too, so goes to pieces if you attempt a cruising on concrete calls for full spirited drive on an unevenlyradio volume if you're to catch every surfaced B-road, the little Hyundai keeps its composure and proves surprisingly supple.

The steering is light and accurate, and the expected feeling of precariousness doesn't materialise. All ing markets.

that happens if you round a bend too quickly is that the front wheels drift outwards in an ever widening arc.

The dashboard is more interesting than the Move's, too - all curves and cowis and poc and vents, like the nozzle of a half-dryer. There's no glovebox as suc.1. but plenty of shelves, pockets and cup-holders. The plastics are haro and shiny, though, and their fit is approximate in places.

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Section 18

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As a cubist car, then, the Atoz works well, apart from that driver's legroom problem. The simplest solution here would be to reengineer the seat mountings to raise the seat's front edge, thus providing a little more support for

In the end, though, what does an Atoz offer that a normal supermini does not?

It offers the illusion of extra passenger space, the reality of potentially greater cargo space, the ability to slide into tighter parking spaces - thanks to its brevity - and a low price, to match the minimalist mechanicals.

In some ways, it's a fine solution. To what problem, though, I'm not quite sure.

Incidentally, the Atoz is called Atos in South Korea. Meaningless in Korean, the name was deemed less than optimal for English-speak-

# Trooper talents track through on the rough stuff

BIG DEAL. The latest Isuzu Trooper, powered by a new 3.5-litre petrol V6, accelerates almost as quickly as a Ford Mondeo 1.8. You get the point? It takes a lot of gasguzzling power to make a heavy prick-shaped 4x4 like the Trooper as asl as an ordinary car.

Forget about economy. Drive with anything but restraint and you'd be lucky to see 20mpg. Add to the list of woes ponderous steering. handling that leaves you marvelling at the niftiness of a Mondeo, and a squirmy, restless ride. Accept these congenital defects, suffered by all hig off-roaders, and the new Trooper is actually rather good.

Isuzu has come a long way since it made Hillman Minxes under licence. Commercials and offroaders are now its forte. Diesels, too. The tough Trooper has earned a good reputation for dependability, especially on the rough stuff. Restricted to road use, its talents are wasted, its extravagance exposed. But that's lifestyle for you.

People who don't need off-roaders continue to buy them. They like the feeling of irresistibility, of safety through mass. They like the lofty,

see-all driving position, too. More comfortable workhorse than slave to fashion, the boxy Trooper, its edges softened around a fresh face, has new engines - one of them a "revolutionary" 3.0-litre. It's the model to have if easy rear 16-valve turbo-diesel. With an output access and acres of space are not

Roger Bell drives a comfortable workhorse with guzzling

power under its bonnet

opposition for power and torque. Throttle response is lag-free; acceleration brisk for a 4x4 Refinement, though, takes a back

seat here. There's nothing coarse or noisy speed 112 mph, 0-60mpb in 11.0 about the 112 mph V6. The engine seconds, 20.6mpg (combined). is smooth, quiet, gutsy and willing But for the way it slurps unleaded, it would get top marks.

Gear-changing is no chore, in spite of the heefy lever, and the steering is easy, if oot precise. Normally, only the back wheels are driven, saving a hit on frictional losses. Four-wheel drive can be selected up to 60mpb simply by pressing a button - and electronics

do the rest. The short-wheelbase three-door of 150bhp, it certainly whips the priorities. Trim and equipment lots of room and ability.

depends on the model. The Standard is pretty basic; the Citation is ludicrously plash.

The in-between Duty, with elec-tric windows, central locking, and adjustable steering, and so on, is the popular choice.

If you want a comfortable, go-anywhere tank, the Trooper is a strong contender.

SPECIFICATION

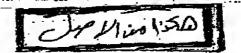
Isuzu Trooper, from £19,100 (short Standard diesel) to £28,655 (long 3.5 Citation auto). Short petrol Citation on test, £23,650. Engine (petrol): 3494cc 24-valve V6, 215bhp. Transmission: five-speed manual

/four-speed auto, front/all-wheel drive. Performance (manual): top Rivals

Chrysler Jeep 4.0 Limited, £22,895 popular, but cramped Yankee muscle with lusty performance; Ford Explorer, £26,295 - big, butch, stylish 4.0 petrol auto from the US; Land Rover Discovery three-door V8 XS, £23,240 - revisions soon to Britain's best-selling big off-roader, Mitsubishi Shogun 3.0 V6 GLS. £23.895 - more style less compb than Trooper; Ssangyong Musso 3.2 GX220, 525,615 - better than flash is lighter and more manoeuvrable styling suggests, Mercedes engine than the longer and pricier five door makes it very fast; Toyota Land Cruiser Colorado three-door 3.0td GX, £24,965 - impressive diesel with



Forget economy. The Isuzu Trooper's V6 engine is smooth, quiet, and gutsy. But top marks for the way it slurps unleaded fuel



Not only is it chic to own a Sixties car, but it can also prove to be tax effective,

reports James Ruppert

Mis of a drive

yon love traditional, thoroughly British saloons, then the NEC in Birmingham will definitely be the place to be this October That is because the International Motor Show will be witnessing two of the most significant new car launches of the last decade.

The Rover 75 and Jaguar S Type signal a return to those companies' roots, building sophisticated, medium-sized and distinctly middleclass motors.

So far the public has been teased with artists' renderings and car bodies draped in dust sheets. What we know for sure is that these are vital models that will compete head on with BMW. Audi and Mercedes in this sector of the market.

-Ironically, both companies now belong to overseas owners, yet Ford, which runs Jaguar and BMW which, similarly, have the final say at Rover - understand precisely what the appeal of a thoroughly British car ought to be.

Both cars must be solid, yet comfortable, with a certain sportiness and utterly traditional wood and walnut interiors.

However, some car buyers prefer to stick to the real thing. In the Sixties the monied professional doing well would prohably have chosen a Jaguar Mark 2, or S-type, whereas the bank manager, or company executive climbing to the top might well have been seen in a respectable, yet technologically ambitious Rover 2000 or 3500 (also known as the P6).

In the Nineties it has never been more fashionable to be seen in one of these stylish old cars. We know this because The Face magazine recently told us so, hut there also seems to he a strong undercurrent of born-again classic car owners who want a real Sixties original.

The stand-up comedian Jenny Eclair's first car was a Daimler 250, which has the same characterful shape as a Jaguar, hut with a powerful V8 engine. "I have always loved the styling, and that was a really brilliant car," she says. "Leather seats, beautiful bodywork and a wonderful engine. Driving it was so different from buzzing about in a silly little hatchback. Unfortunately, someone pinched it."

The desire to drive something out of the ordinary seems to be at the heart of the great British saloon car revival. "I knew that there were plenty of other people out there who wanted to drive something a little different," explains Bespokes' chairman, Mario Budwig.

His company provides cootracthire classic cars as direct substitutes



A classic Jaguar Mark 2 in good condition is still in great demand

# Bored with your car? Drive the real thing

for hard-working company cars. In bottom-line tax terms, the sums seem to make sense, as there are big savings to be made in running a classic car. The most favourable situation occurs when a vehicle is valued at less than £15,000 today, and is more than 15 years old. Your personal tax liability is then based upon the car's purchase price

So take a Jaguar Mark 2 with an original list price of £1,500 and compare that with a new Vauxhall Vectra at £14,000, the same price as a decent Mk2 will set you back. Then clock up between 2,501 and 17,999 business miles and gasp in amazement as your benefit-in-kind scale charge amounts to £233.33, as opposed to £3,266.66.

What that means is an annual tax hill of £93.33 in the Jag, as opposed to £1,306.66 in the Vectra.

We did not realise the advantages of this scheme, until someone else pointed it out," says Mr Budwig. "I started this venture, purely as an enthusiast, because for the last

20 years I've driven classics full time. I started with a £60 Riley 1.5. I had Volvo Amazons, Alfasuds, Jaguar E-Types, and I even drove a Ford V8 Pilot as everyday transport for three years. "The idea is to put the buzz back into driving and make every trip enjoyable again."

The Jaguar specialists JD Classics, in Essex, are also finding customers more than ready to invest in an older saloon, and treat them as an everyday proposition. "The market for small Jaguar saloons is getting stronger," says Derek Hood,

"Our customers are bored by most modern cars, and fed up with depreciation. They have looked at modern Jaguars, Mercedes and Audis, but in the end they are prepared to spend around £70,000 on one of our cars."

the director.

The way the company operates is to take an original and sound Jaguar, and then rebuild it to customer requirements. Their JD Sport Mark 2 has been developed over a 10-year period and is up-rated to perform as reliably and competently as any modern car.

The engine is completely rebuilt produce more than 300 hhp; Moreover, you may choose any type of gearbox, from automatic to a close-ratio sports.

Tyres, suspension and brakes are all modified to cope with the extra performance, and easily outhandle the less than perfect origi-

Inside, there is full leather, rather than areas of period vinyl, the seats have been remade to be more comfortable than before - and the dashboard is completely reveneered. bulging history file and cost a real-There is no need to forgo any istic £8,950. thoroughly modern creature comforts, with CD systems, electric

windows and air-conditioning on the options list. It is green, too, running on unleaded petrol and with a catalytic converter.

"It is easier to sell a modified car than a standard one, and the way we build them it is easy to remove all the up-rates and return to the car to original if desired," says Mr

sun roofs, central locking, electric

The company also have several mid-Sixties examples in stock, and it is hard to tell the difference between them and a modified model. When I visited there was even an S Type, essentially a Mark 2 with with a larger boot, which had been sympathetically upgraded in the interests of everyday use.

"We made the market for those cars when the Queen's eye surgeon came to us and asked for his S Type to be modified," said Mr Hood with

At the classic car dealers John Brown, in Hertfordshire, there was an original 1968 Jaguar 3.4 S Type. Finished in white, it had powersteering and an overdrive gearbox, but apart from a radio and wing mirrors, that was all got in 1968.

When it comes to Rovers, there

dedicated than JP Restorations in Lancashire. I spoke to John Wood, one of the owners. "The demand for the Rover P6 is henomenal," he said. "We don't in

are fewer specialists, but none more

fact sell cars, but restore them for customers who are prepared to pay up to £10,000 for that work. Then they use them every day. "What they want are character-

Rover fits the bill." Unlike the Jaguar market,

Rovers are returned to original condition and do not have Nineties comfort upgrades.

Thumbing through classic car advertisements, you see that one of these Rovers can easily be acquired in tidy condition for less than £2,000.

So however the new Jaguar and Rover models are received at the Birmingham show, the original (and some might argue the hest) ex-amples of respectable Sixties saloons are still doing very well for themselves, thank you very much.

JD Classics 01245 400060; John Brown 01763 852200; JP Restorations 01706 854017; Bespokes 0181 421 8686

# Check that 4x4! It may have a genuine double

Criminals steal off-roaders and then 'ring' them with the identity of written-off vehicles. says James Ruppert

CAR CRIME is sexy. It must be, otherwise TV producers wouldn't be so eager to fill prime-time television with scenes of GTIs giving police the runaround on a housing estate.

You know the score by now - grainy video footage, high speeds, sirens, frantic commentary, maybe a collision, then a chase on foot, all finished off hy the ohligatory hovering helicopter with a beat-sensitive camera that picks up the thief hiding in a potting-shed.

Undeniably it is all rather exciting, and makes for brilliant, and cheap, TV. Recently you could tune into BBC's X Cars, which follows the exploits of Manchester's stolen vehicle squad. Then there is Police Stop!, not only a highly successful television series, but also a multi-million video-to-buy phenomenon.

Even World in Action has got on the bandwagon with its own investigation into car crime, uncovering scams with exciting slang names such as "ringing" and "cloning". The police, the Home Office, the RAC and a company called HPI Equifax thought it was time to hold a Car Crime Clinic to explain the dangers of buying a used car Before the conference began, the

video screen flickered not with a car chase, but with a soap - Coronation Street, to be precise. If you don't follow the programme, a recent storyline concerned Alma, the café proprietor, who bought a car Mike, her husband, had bought a secondhand car but when Alma ran a check, she found it was stolen. The check that Alma did was an "HPT". HPI-Equifax provides the motor

trade and public with information on used vehicles by checking through a number of databases to establish the car's "hidden history". If it is stolen, or an insurance write-off, or still subject to finance, the buyer ful and reliable vehicles, and the avoids making a costly mistake.

vage yard, then graft its identity on to an identical stolen vehicle to create what is known as a "ringer". Now, however, an even simpler scam

is emerging, called "cloning". **Detective Superintendent Bernie** Watson, Head of the Surrey Police Stolen Vehicle Squad, explained that cloning involved taking the identity of a legitimately owned vehicle and putting it on to the stolen car. A fraudulent application for a vehicle licence is then made at the Post Office, while the buyer is told that the registration document has been sent off to the DVLA. "People fall for it regularly. They don't check everything, and they should," he said.

the criminal and the mobility of this sort of crime, these villains doo't spend much time accurately grafting in the legitimate vehicle's identity, and also they ignore the fact that the legitimate car may itself be on one or more of HPI's Registers.

Cloning can follow the most complex or simple forms - hut essentially the crime is always the same, resulting in two vehicles driving around with superficially the same identity. Sooner or later, the police find out.

A typical example was a two-year old Land Rover Discovery TDi. It had 24,000 miles on the clock and was worth around £16,000. Off-road vehicles such as this are in demand and are easy to sell.

Det Supt Watson guided a camera around the 4x4, and the image was relayed to the video screen. The first thing visible was the VIN (vehicle identification number) fitted behind the windscreen. This should match the VIN plate on the front "slam" panel under the bonnet. It did, but the plate was a forgery. The protective wax sprayed on at the factory was curiously missing from the plate, while everything else had a thick film.

Then the camera picked up shards of metal caught by the grease around the bonnet catch. Clearly the rivets which held the original plate had been drilled out. Under the wheel arch, it picked up more numbers stamped on the chassis. Some vigorous rubbing showed that this was, in fact, a replacement section from another vehicle welded in.

All is revealed when a new picture is flashed on the screen - an utterly flattened and written-off Discovery to which the identity belonged. This car has been "ringed".

Unfortunately the most basic carbuying mistake is taking the registration V5 document at face value. which is never proof of ownership. Once, the most common fraud . For the legitimate car trade, a "HPT was to buy a wrecked car from a salis a reflex action, but getting the public to do the same, particularly when buying privately, is proving to be more difficult.

Nicki Webster, marketing director of HPI-Equifax, said that most cloned vehicles were poor-quality ringers, "If the crook doesn't bother to change the VIN number, then the HPI vehicle registration mark/ VIN cross-check will reveal that there is something wrong." I suggested to Tony Worthy, man-

aging director of HPI, that the £28.50 fee might be the cause. "We don't find that our service is price sensitive: all we need to do is get the message across that we can help."

Owing to the transient nature of HPI-Equifox: 01722 422422

## MY WORST CAR

TIM SUGDEN'S RENAULT 12



My Renault would run for 15 minutes and then need a rest for 20 minutes

TO FINANCE my racing career. I spent several years in the motor trade - and to be honest dozens of really bad cars passed through my hands.

One that sticks in my mind, though, is a Renault 12 about the time that I was racing Formula Fords, I was absolutely skint, but managed to scrape together £75 to huy the Renault.

It looked tidy enough, hut had this peculiar habit of running for 15 minutes then stopping dead, and the engine would not fire again for a further 20 minutes.

There was no way that I could afford to have it fixed, although I discovered that if I drove it for just 12 minutes, then parked it for five, it would start

immediately. I ran it for maybe six months and got used to it. That meant carefully planning every

journey, using a stopwatch, having a pile of magazines to read - and I'd also pack a sleeping bag.

Then there was my first Mini van, which had all the usual faults like a major rust problem. In fact, all the time that I owned the car, it had a flat battery which I could not afford . to replace. I always parked on hill, or incline, in order to jump-start it.

On one occasion, exiting a pub car park, the A panel adjacent to the driver's door bad rusted through and jammed it shut. Unfortunately I had already pushed the Mini off and was struggling to get in. I had to run around to the passenger side, catch it up, unlock the door and then jump in. I

year's Le Mans in an EMKA averted disaster by inches. Another problem with that won the Privilege Insurunce van was the gear linkage, which GT Championship which would come adrift and only currently he is leading.

leave me with reverse gear Only a rusty nail would bold the linkage in place, and if that broke I was stranded. On one occasion I parked

just off a motor way junction to go to a nearby meeting. When I returned, I had the misfortune to find that the nail had broken. so the only way out was to reverse home 3 miles.

As I did this, I overtook a jogger, but had to stop because the engine was overheating. When it had cooled down, I overtook him again. I think that happened four times before he ran up to the car and said: "Put me out of my misery, this has got to be Candid Camera."

Tim Sugden finished 4th at this

Team McLaren and last year

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# Walking on water made easy

You may crave a wooden floor but fear the effect on your neighbours. Good news is at hand. Cork tiles have gone upmarket, and you can cover your floor with pretty designs. By Rosalind Russell

boosing flooring must be one of the few home decor decisions that is likely to have as much impact on your neighbours as it loes on your own property. Ask any

The noise of adults, boisterous todllers and dogs clattering around werhead on fashionable wood strip tooring can be intensely irritating. in fact some leases stipulate that loors must be carpeted to minmise un-neighbourly nuisance. But there are stylish alternatives

o wall-to-wall carpet. Cork tiles - once as appealing as cipper bes and Hessian wallpaper have been reinvented dramatically and have moved upmarket.

Art school graduate Alice Balfour vas twiddling her thumbs waiting or Sotheby's to offer ber a full-time b when she came up with ber Great Idea. Despite grumbles from her father at being barred from ising his own loo for two days, she et about re-decorating the lavatoy floor. Alice laid cut-out pictures f gold coins and medals on a red ork background on the floor and arnished it. Everyone admired the esult, including an old friend who old her she had great ideas but was opeless at business

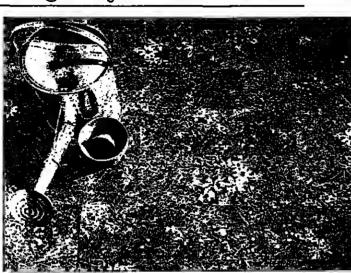
While Alice spent two years deeloping her product, the friend. Mark Findley, went off and did an MBA business course. Now the air design, produce and sell Har-ey Maria floor tiles and bave noved from a kitchen-table operaion into proper offices and a fully

Their decorative tiles are unlike nost others you are likely to see. Imaginative and amusing, the Jutdoor and Manor collections have . cork base and photographic lamnate finish, while the Eastern colection bas a hand-painted and .acquered finish.

The Manor collection includes Lional 15th century floor tile design. "The Old Masters tiles were inpired by the time I spent working

n an arts course at Sotheby's," says lice, a trained silversmith. Access to old catalogues with picares by Vermeer produced the idea or the Old Master tiles. They look erfect in a hallway, especially in a ictorian house, but some buyers ave been sensitive about treading

n the portraits' faces.





or through soft sand.

These tiles cost £38.18 per pack of tage designs of pebbles, sand and shells, a grassy meadow and glittering sea with ghostly underwater fish (£34.66 per pack). The tiles are quite warm and - as well as providing a dedropped on them.

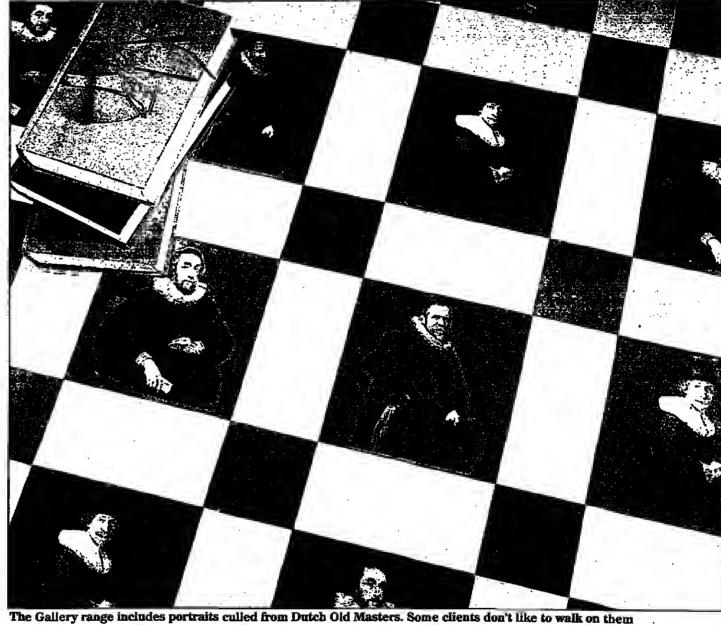
Harvey Maria will accept commissions from buyers who would like to choose their own photographic image under UV lacquer, but that is likely to be an expensive option for a domestic customer.

It is also possible to have a wood-en floor that deadens sound. Wickenders makes a rubber-cork underlay that can be fitted underneath its own

Wickanders claims it significantnine (a square yard). The Outdoor col- ly reduces impact sound. It also lection comprises clever photo-mon-makes tongue and groove interlocking planks with an inner cork core. Wood-O-Floor is a floating floor, designed to fit over the top of an existing floor without being fixed to it, which avoids having to dig up rary, hand-cut letters on paper texures, and Gallery. Dutch Old more forgiving than ceramic or lernable, cherry, beech and red oak finaster nortraits set in a tradiprofessional fitter (it will supply a list on request) and having the floor checked for damp before the floating floor is laid. It costs £49.99 per square metre, which is rather more expensive than top-of-the-range carpet, but it does carry a warranty for 10 years. And think what it'll do for neighbour relations.

> Harvey Maria 0181 516 7789; Wickanders 01403 710001





# Commitment-free in the country

E ILAVE all come across those peole who announce brightly on a rim day in the city that, thank goodess, they are off to their country cotage for the weekend. Or if it's the ummer holiday, they look pityingas you detail your package plans nd say, "oh, dear... we always pend five weeks in our house in

ornwall. The children just love it." What they might not admit so eadily, are their anxieties about a roperty being left empty somemes for months at time, the inie fact that they are pretty well oliged to spend this year, next year nd every other year there.

nen there is an alternative to buyommon, perhaps, but easier than .: might seem. Jenni Sivertsen, a ommodity trader, returned to Lonon from Hong Kong earlier this ear where she and friends had rentd a weekend retreat between them. o successful had it been that she as determined to do the same ing in England. Despite doom-: iongers who thought of every posble impediment, she now spends vo weekends a month in a 160-yearid thatched cottage in Wilishire, for hich she pays a share of the £600 :: jonthly rent.

what we most wanted, so we ended

A little weekend retreat may seem an elusive fantasy.

But share-renting a cottage or farmhouse is an option. Penny Jackson explains how

pub, close to water and with a large garden and storage. Amazingly we found it," says Jenni. "So far the arrangement has been working perfectly. We sat down and worked out exactly bow to divide up the time even allocating vitable repairs, appalling tenants if bank holidays, Christmas. New Year and Easter. If we need to swap it is not usually a problem."

They also pre-empted any wildly differing tastes by agreeing on neu-If it's close enough to weekend in, tral furnishings and only certain colours for bits and pieces bought for ig - rent and sbare. Not all that the kitchen. "If one of us finds a picture or something they're not sure about, we check with the others before buying it."

But the mood between sharers can quickly turn murderous if a relaxing week in a cottage begins with emptying smelly bins, cleaning sinks and clearing away the detritus of someone else's riotous weekend. Jenni and her co-tenants prepared for every scenario. "We drew up a set of rules that we stick to rigidly. No keys must be lent and if anything is used up it must be replaced. We are really strict about "The three of us each listed drinks. If someone were to arrive on a Friday night knowing they had plooking for something within an left a bottle of champagne and our and half of London, near a three bottles of wine only to find

them gone, it would be disastrous. Finishing up the bit of cheese in the fridge isn't quite the same thing!", she adds. So far, no one has turned up to unwashed bed linen and a chaotic house. "We always strip the beds and tidy everything before we go. It becomes a habit on a Sunday morning. Someone comes to cut

A shared passion for gardening was one of the factors that had impressed their landlord. Not everyone is keen to offer a lease to three people, none of whom will be living there all the time, but if their idea of a perfect weekend is weeding and mulching then it's a different matter.

The agent also persuaded him that as we were professional, in our forties and two of us lawyers, we were a safe bet." adds Jenni. "The great thing is that if it doesn't work out we have nothing to lose. None of us wanted to take out a second mortgage for our own place."

In Norfolk, though, Malcolm Duffey of agents Belton Duffey, suggests that in the long run it might not cost any more to buy outright. Renting in the popular coastal regions would be expensive since the amount paid over a year has to buy out the lu-

owners would regard their seasonal goldmine worth trading for a 12month lease. A pretty cottage some 12 miles or so from the coast would cost about £325,000 a month to rent,

In north Cornwall, the story is much the same. John Bray & Partners in Rock can provide sbort-term lets but nothing for a year since owners can expect as much as £1,200 a week in the summer season. Lane Fox in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire has only a few suitable properties to let as second bomes - a thatched cottage in Dinton at £625 a month and a barn conversion at Dorton for £695.

if one can be found at all.

In Oxfordshire, Strutt & Parker's Newbury office has steady demand from London. "The main concern of landlords is that a property should not be neglected by tenants understandably reluctant to spend part of their weekends doing chores", says Amanda Denton. "While owners might prefer to see a lease in just one name, the possibility of a joint tenancy depends entirely on who is involved". An estate cottage in Pusey will shortly be available for renting at £1,500 a month through

The pleasure of not being re-sponsible for the upkeep of a prop-erty is precisely what appeals to Frances Sanders, who rents an unfurnished cottage from a farmer in West Sussex with another family.

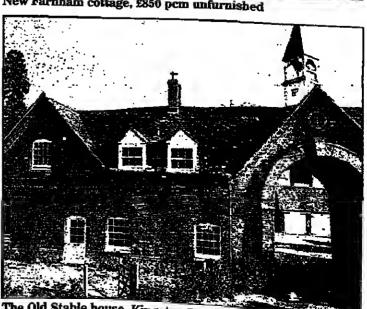
"It belps that we all have children. We treat the cottage very much as a bolthole and haven't got involved with the local community. It feels like bome but the great advantage of renting is that it's simply furnished and decorated and we feel no need to improve it. We do have a cleaner on a Monday, which takes any strain out of sharing."

husband had been considering renting a place in the country with others. "But I would drive everyone mad because I constantly want to do things to a bouse. Anyway, I recalled all those borror stories friends would regale us with endlessly. Sharing worked like a dream when they were single and then someone's girlfriend started to regard the place as her own and took over the kitchen and the best bedroom. All everyone did was com-plain. And that's before the children came along. Then they either moaned about how awful each other's kids were or that they couldn't get to the cottage when they wanted."

Not surprisingly, the Grays have just bought their own place in Cornwall. It was Rose's decision: "At least we'll keep our friends this way".



Leaving your mark is irresistible New Farnham cottage, £850 pcm unfurnished to some, though. Rose Gray and her



The Old Stable house, Kingston Bagpuize, £900 pcm

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With a little vision, you can plan your perfect house by buying it before it is finished. By Mary Wilson

uying a property off-plan – in the early days before any construction has started, or more usually some time before the property is completed - is something UK buyers have been doing more and more until recently. And when prices are rising strongly, some purchasers take advantage of the hike in values and sell their property on without ever moving in. Over the past two years there

have been a few people buying early at all our developments and selling them on before they are completed. At Barnes Village, south-west London, someone apparently made a 20 per cent profit," says Ros Hetreed, marketing manager for Berkeley Homes (Thames Valley). "It's all to do with trusting the developer sufficiently to deliver what it promises". At Victoria Quay, a development by

Linden Homes of 99 houses and flats at Ocean Village in Southampton, Hampshire, several people bought two or three apartments earlier this year. "They have all kept one for themselves and sold on the others to reduce their borrowings," says Philip Davies, chairman of Linden Homes. There are nine townhouses left, selling from £164,950 to £249,950.

Even large detached houses have been bought off-plan in order to sell on, "We had five large houses in Esher, which were around £600,000 each," says Tony Pidgley of Thirlstone Homes. Three people got together, put down a deposit of 10 per cent and bought the lot just after we had got planning. Just before they and made a good healthy profit".

property, advantages of buying offbest plot, choose the fixtures and fit- kitchen and bathrooms. tings and make internal alterations.

house from Bryant Country Homes a week before the show-bouse in June, hoping to be able to move the first new house we have bought, but it is the first one we have bought off-plan," says Annie.

The O'Briens saw the development, Lytton Park in Cobham, Surrey when the foundations were going down. "We liked what we saw from if the building programme should be the plans, but did a lot of homework delayed? "We have thought of that," before we decided to buy looking at says Annie. "We can extend our tenmany other properties. We went for ancy for another month, but hope



were completed they flipped them Annie and Jack O'Brien bought off-plan when they saw the foundations. You have to have a lot of vision when looking at plots of land'

For people who intend to live in the the Bryant house because it gave us that as the house had its roof on sure that the build programme does- plan their life. "It could take a year buying from plans. "Such sales have

"We waited as long as we could to Annie and Jack O'Brien bought a see what the finish would be like and opened, signed on the dotted line. You in et the end of September. "It's not have to have a lot of vision when looking at plots of land and unfinished houses and a lot of people find that difficult," Annie says.

The O'Briens are in rented property with a contract that runs out at the end of September. What happens

be any problems." Ham selling the remaining 13 five-bed-

Finance is not normally a problem. Lenders are quite au fait with offplan huying. Once you have put down your 10 per cent deposit they will probably have a look at the site early on and then return a week before completion. Once satisfied, the mortgage will be agreed in time for you to pay the final 90 per cent.

Uncertainty about the completion date is the main worry, especially if you are paying two mortgages

while you wait. "You can never be

what we wanted and, of course, we when we bought it, there should not . n't slip, although builders add on to sell a property and it means they accounted for more than half the reselves," says Gill Lamprell of Knight George is selling off-plan apartroom properties from £715,000 to Frank. "In most cases, developers are within their original projected

dates by two to three months".

Tony Carey, managing director of St. George, says that about 50 per cent of his developments are sold offplan, the rest before they are completely finished. "From a developer's point of view it's all to do with striking a balance. It is nice to have finance in hand early but not so far ahead that you cannot take advantage of rising prices," he says.

In South Wales, Wilcon Homes has Carey reckons that people like buying early because it helps them to

ments at locations all over London. Both Tony Carey and Paul Val-

lone of Berkeley Homes stress that communication between developer and customer is the most important thing. "You need to keep them informed as to what is happening," says Vallone. Should completion be delayed, the purchaser has no recourse to compensation. But the contract gives the developer the right to demand that the purchaser completes.

seen a record number of purchasers 8171; Wilcon Homes, 0800 0711400

Swidenbank, area sales manager. "People reserve a property they have not seen in order to get the house type and the plot they want. It also gives them added time. At a development in Undy, near Newport, one buyer was able to complete his purchase before going abroad on business for three months."

Berkeley Homes, 01932 868555; Linden Homes, 01703 366399; Thirlstone Homes, 01932 350900; Hamptons, 01372 468411, St. George, 0181 917 4000; Knight Frank, 0171 824



PENNY **JACKSON** 

THE TEMPTATION to seli your house without an agent is compelling, especially when everyone says how lovely it is and how easy it would be to find a buyer.

Janice Plummer certainly thought so, until she found berself the victim of bogus buyers. She had read articles about time-wasters but always thought they must be easy to spot. She advertised her

Wiltshire bome and sifted through the dozen or so enquiries. One of the couples who came to see it loved it immediately and said they would buy it for the full asking price.

It all seemed too easy. They came back to measure up for curtains; they sent e surveyor round and talked enthusiastically about living there. Alice even postponed e week's holiday to hurry things along. And then silence.

She rang, she wrote, but no reply. It turned out their address was false and she guesses probably their names. Even agents can be caught out by the most plausible, and everyone is left wondering why anyone should waste their time. At the top of the market

many agents require references before showing properties, but that should not be necessary for a threebedroom converted stable.

THE LATEST note of warning about the housing market has come from Black Horse Agencies. Their report this week on new homes finds that buyers' confidence has been affected by uncertainty on interest es, in Scotland, builders are choosing to take less profit in order to remain competitive.

Fewer people, it seems, are now buying off-plan, often choosing to see the show bome first. They are also hunting down depositpaid schemes, partexchange and often expect. some white goods and soft furnishings within the price. Among those features people most want to see in a new house are higher ceilings, larger showers and a study or playroom.

# Go undercover to pick your perfect agent

It's an important decision - so pose as a customer and check out estate agencies, advises Ginetta Vedrickas

even more traumatic than deciding to move. What questions should you ask? And who will best earn their 2 per cent? Selling an inherited property brings an opportunity to compare agents and their approaches. I make three appointments and wait.

9.40am. Open door to young and very small boy, Jeff, who bounds around like an affectionste puppy. Assures me be knows area intimately - "ray girifriend lives round the corner" - and soon gets me as over-excited as he is: "You're looking at loads of money." Effect spoilt If he puts you off, will he put buyers by long phone call to his boss: "It's a tricky one." Glean from eavesdropping that boss, like Jeff, has no idea where house is, or its value. Jeff confides he "loves his job". Who wouldn't after six months? Leaves with a whimper.

10.30am. Kevin bangs on door. Looks rough. Explains he was up late watching football. Appears more mature apart from his brace. Sit down for lengthy chat. Key seems receptive to questions. "How many clients are looking for this type of property?" "Lots", offers Nev. Eventually gives truly tempting valuation and for lowest fee, 1 per cent, so I

promise to be in touch. 11.30am. Receive call from mobile phone. Giovanni will be late (football fever again). Finally open door to dour person who shatters all preconceptions about excitable Latinos. your valuation is accurate? Most

CHOOSING AN estate agent can be even more traumatic than deciding round. Get sinking feeling, synonymous with mechanic looking under bonnet. Wait for property equivalent of "your big end's gone". Not sur-prised when Giovanni suggests selling to developers and, naturally, he can recommend some. His valuation is £50,000 less than Kev's. Close door reeling in confusion and determine to seek further advice. Ian Dickson, director of

Winkworth, Shepherd's Bush, says: "You are making a buge financial commitment and must be confident that the agent will do a good job. off?" He finds the choice of agent "varies dramatically" depending on whether you are buying or selling: The man might be the biggest creep in the world but if he's got the right property at the right price, and you're buying, who cares?" Some agents may not know their market and will undersell properties. "It's great for huyers but not sellers."

Mr Dickson believes overpricing is more common among agents and finds that many vendors simply choose whoever gives the highest valuation. "It's a common ploy but sellers frequently find that, within weeks, the egent wants you to reduce the price to the figure suggested by the middle man. We get vendors coming to us who feel

they have been tricked." But how can you ensure that



Loads of 'For Sale' signs, but what about the value of the homes being sold? Overpricing by agents appears to be common

accuracy by asking to see property This involves research on your part

but it may be worthwhile. Your valuation may be realistic but is your agent competent? Carol Sutton eventually sold her three-bedroom semi in Surrey, but only after changing agents. "In three months

agents suggest asking for proof of the first hardly sent anyone round and see what reception you get. Ring comparable sales. Confirm their to view, and the ones he did send were looking for something comdetails and make comparisons in pletely different," she recalls. So how terms of location, size and condition. can vendors minimise inefficiency? Ian Dickson advises: "Go into the office and look at the quality of staff. Inexperienced 17-year-olds probably won't give as good a service as people who know a lot about

what they are selling." He goes further: "Pose as a buyer

up and say what you are looking for. They may offer to send details but a good agent will talk you through what they have and ask when you want to come and have a look."

Is it better to choose a large chain rather than a small business? "I wouldn't condemn the one-office operation. They may know their area thoroughly and have reciprocal agreements with others, but do

check how much exposure they can give your property." Vendors should also be aware that bigger firms frequeotly move agents around, so their local knowledge may be inadequate compared with that of a

small company's employees I thin of Kevin and ask Ian Dickson whether fees should form a basis for choice. He warns: "Don't go for the agent who offers to cut his rate.

Someone who isn't scraping around is Gordon Blausten, of the Notting Hill agency Bruten & Co. What makes him estate agent of the year? "My gittering personality I suppose!" He compares choosing a good agent to finding a solicitor. "Ask neighbours and colleagues in the area in which you wish to buy. Test out their local reputation. The agent with the highest profile is not nec-essarily the best."

scraping around for business."

He counsels against agents who operate simply as marketing companies. "It works, but they are often interested only in getting the deal done rather than obtaining the best for their clients. We want the best, but not necessarily today. We sometimes advise clients to wait and they may be able to get a bit more."

The National Association of Estate Agents asks prospective members to complete a written test and lays down guidelines. The NAEA is also campaigning for the industry to be licensed.

Gordon adds a cautionary note about pricing: "We work on comparables but also take into account how much people are willing to pay. Prices would never rise if we relied solely on surveyors' valuations." Most agents say that publicity is important, but Gordon is philosophical; "One good negotiator is worth a

dozen pages of adverts." Before choosing an agent: Check that they belong to a trade association; meet the manager and staff, pose as a huyer; look at comparables and check property details; ask how much coverage they will

Winkaporth, Shepherd's Bush: 0181-Many have to, because they are 749 3394; Bruten & Co: 0171-229 9262

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# Style in suburbia

The long-scorned Thirties semi is finally making converts. By Gwenda Joyce-Brophy

ust as lots of people start off with a strong idea of the sort of partner they are looking for, then fall for someone completely different, so it can happen with a home. The handsome Victorian or Edwardian property has long had plenty of admirers. while the Thirties semi is often ignored or rejected outright.

The determined refrain "I would never go for a Thirties house", is as familiar to many estate agents as "I'm looking for a Victorian terrace with original features".

The perceived shortcomings of the Thirties semi are well documented: they lack the relatively cap-acious rooms of many of the older period properties, and there is often a small kitchen – and the infamous "box" third bedroom. Louise Woodford, curator of the Geffrye museum in London, says: "The fireplaces could often be hideous, with hrown tiles, although you could sometimes get marble or wood ones." There has also been a little snob-

bery attached to the Thirties semi They were huilt predominantly for the lower middle classes", says Ms Woodford, and for some huyers they still represent an image of net curtains and suburban tweeness.

John Harrington and his wife Sarah-Jane had been adamant that they would not buy a Thirties house. Wheo their two daughters came along, however, and they were keen for them to attend a particular school, the area in which they needed to find a property was effectively circumscribed.

They focused their search for a new home on 15 nearby streets and found that these were made up entirely of Thirties houses.

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John says: "I always said I hated Thirties semis, particularly since I had seen so many that had been hutchered. However, when we walked into this one we were extremely surprised at what we saw and were instantly smitten. We just looked at each other and said, we'll have it'."

Much of the attraction lay in the fact that the house retained many of its original features.

"It had lovely fireplaces with dark wood surrounds, as well as the orig-



Thirties semis with original features such as wood-surround fireplaces are prized by buyers

inal picture rails. In the bathroom was a big, free-standing bath, still with its taps that infill from the sides. We must have looked amazed. because the old lady who was selling the house told us not to worry about the existing state of the bathroom - she would make sure that this was all replaced with a new whispergrey bathroom suite for us. We

quickly put a hrake on that." The Harringtons also found that the house had original Art Deco tiling. "All we bad to do was to clean up the grout

In Kent, Annette Stephens and her husband, Ervin, did not see themselves in a Thirties house - hut ended up being seduced by one. "We had been looking for a Victorian house hut all the ones we looked at were too pricey. We then decided, very half-heartedly, to take a look at a Thirties house in the same area. When we saw it there was instant attraction. "It was on a secluded corner plot

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so I didn't have the feeling of living in one long row of Thirties semis, and it had a beautiful, mature garden. It was also built in the chalet style with a long, sloping roof, so the room layout was quite different from that of the typical Thirties semi's room

The Stephenses stripped the floors, the doors, the skirting boards and the window frames. "We deliberately made the house as un-Like the Harringtons, they now

believe that having a rear reception room that fully overlooks the garden gives an edge over their former ideal home - a Victorian terrace with just a narrow stretch down the side of the house to the garden. The Harringtons say: "It also makes it very easy to watch the children."

The Stephenses added a conservatory to the rear reception room, so the French doors and flanking windows lead into another bright room.

Louise Woodford says: "Lighting was deliberately enhanced in Thirties houses, with their curved, suntrap windows, or wide horizontal ones that were meant to let in as much sun as possible."

So will there be a continued trend towards Thirties houses? Bryony Galpin, at the magazine Period House, has noted a burgeoning interest among readers.

She says: "Although the majority of our readership have Georgian, Victorian or Edwardian properties, we also have a many readers who live in Thirties properties. We have run features on Art Deco and on Thirties furniture recently, and we've been surprised at how popular they have been."

Thirtles semis are certainly well represented in Britain's housing stock. Louise Woodford says: "They form a very important part of most suburban areas, in all their various forms - from the The Geffrye Museum (0171-739 9893)

"Tudorbethan' style to the flatroofed versions.

As couples are forced to look further afield than the urban centres. where Victorian houses may either be in less salubrious areas or command premium prices, Thirties properties make up a larger percentage of the homes available. Serge Weinberger, of the north

London estate agents Anscombe and Ringland, says: "Given a choice, a particular couple may choose a Victorian over a Thirties semi, but in many locations you are talking only of Thirties properties.

"Some of these areas are readily accessible to the city centre, yet still relatively close to the countryside, and saw big price hikes when prices started taking off. This has now levelled off," he

adds, "and the over-pricing by sellers has been nipped in the bud."

# THREE TO VIEW IN TV COUNTRY

THIRSK THE Yorkshire market town, is right in the middle of what the local tourist authority likes to call James Herriott country. The



late author and vet wrote his All Creatures Great and Small stories from his home and practice in the town and dales, which were featured prominently in the TV series. Their popularity drew massive numbers of visitors and second home buyers. Despite this, a two bedroom property such as The Little

Cottage still oosts less than the national house price average (£72,248); it is selling for £60,000. It is in the village of Topcliffe, seven miles south west of Thirsk, and is 200 yards from the local pub, The Angel Inn. Grade II listed, it was part of a coaching inn, and has original ceiling beams. The gardens are small and there is one parking space at the back. For sale through GA (01845 522503).

THE PEAK District - Matlock, Bakewell and the Derbyshire Dales - was the site for the filming of Peak Practice. Just outside Matlock is Darley Dale. an area popular with walkers. Number 4 Stanton View is a stone-built, turn-of-the-century. end-of-terrace cottage. It has a 12-ft sitting-room with open fireplace, separate dining room and a 15ft fitted kitchen with walk-in pantry. There are two bedrooms, one with views across the moor, and a large rear terraced garden and parking for three cars. £49,995 through Fidler Taylor (01629 580228).



series starring the pre-Full Monty Robert Carlyle, Hamish Mocbeth, was filmed in and around the West Highland village of Plockton,



seven miles from the Kyle of Lochalsh. When it's oot full of tourists, it's one of the most peaceful spots in Wester Ross. Number 5 Ceann an Uib ("head of the loch") is in a small development next to the local High School. The twobedroom house has a modern fitted kitchen with views to the bay, a 15-ft sitting-room and a separate dining-room. £47,500, GA (01463 221166).

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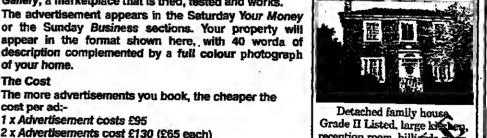
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